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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2003–04

COMPRISING PERIOD
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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 28 June 2004

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Initial Response to "Making Mathematics Count"

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Mr. Charles Clarke): I have today placed in the Library of the House, copies of a booklet outlining the steps we are proposing to take in response to "Making Mathematics Count", the report of the post-14 mathematics inquiry chaired by Professor Adrian Smith.

The report was published on 24 February and at that time I publicly welcomed it. Over the last few months I have been considering the recommendations very carefully, with advice from Adrian Smith and key partners in England, and now feel I am in a position to announce how I plan to take forward the key elements of the report.

The response applies to England only. The devolved administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland are considering the report's recommendations and developing their own responses. The report did not make specific recommendations for Scotland but the Scottish Executive will take the analysis of policy and provision into account. The proposals address the four key areas identified in Adrian Smith's report: the supply of mathematics teachers, supporting teachers' continuing professional development, curriculum pathways, assessment and qualifications, and providing strategic leadership.

My proposals for strategic leadership include:

the appointment of a Chief Adviser on Mathematics within the DfES to oversee implementation of the mathematics strategy and to raise the profile of the subject. Anita Straker of the Centre for British Teachers has been appointed on an interim basis.

My proposals to improve the supply and retention of teachers include:

raising the value of the teacher training bursary for mathematics graduates from £6,000 to £7,000 from September 2005;

increasing the value of the Golden Hello for new mathematics teachers from £4,000 to £5,000 for trainees entering PGCE courses from September 2005 onwards;

subject to the statutory advice of the School Teachers' Review Body, removing the cap on pay for mathematics ASTs, currently just under £50,000, guaranteeing them a minimum salary of £40,000;

doubling the number of undergraduates on the student associates scheme from 5,000 this year to 10,000 places by 2005–06, a high proportion of which will be in the shortage subjects. This programme encourages good quality undergraduates to consider training as teachers by giving them experience of working in schools as volunteers.

My proposals to support teachers' continuing professional development include:

setting out priorities for the new National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching which will provide strategic direction and leadership and, in partnership with the advisory committee for mathematics education, draw together the wider mathematics community to contribute their expertise and leadership. We expect to invite tenders by March 2005;

discussing with the profession the use of one INSET day for subject specific professional development from 2007;

developing pools of mathematics expertise within schools to increase the relevance and range of CPD opportunities on offer at a local level.

My proposals for the curriculum, assessment and qualifications include:

deciding on the introduction of a two-tier mathematics GCSE this autumn once evaluation of the pilot is complete following this summer's exams. This could be taught nationwide from September 2006;

asking the QCA to develop guidance for an extension curriculum separately at key stage 3 and 4 to stretch more able learners;

looking to the working group on 14–19 reform to draw on the recommendations for curriculum pathways in the Smith report. Their final report is due in the autumn;

looking to the QCA to work closely with the wider mathematics community as well as ACME on taking forward these and other proposals.

I believe that together these proposals will provide an effective answer to the challenges ahead and that they represent a fair balance between the needs of mathematics as a subject, what is reasonable in the context of other subjects and what is affordable. Needless to say, taking these proposals forward successfully will depend to a large extent on the advice and continuing support of the mathematics community and I will be looking to them for this.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002: Appointed Person's Annual Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Caroline Flint): I am pleased to announce that the second annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been laid before Parliament today. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the new search power introduced to support the scheme to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person, Andrew Clarke, has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power in its first full year.

Over £60 million had been seized under the new power in the Act by the end of March 2004. The power is a welcome addition in the fight against crime and the report shows that its operation has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

New Forest National Park

The Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environmental Quality (Alun Michael): Today, I am pleased to announce my decision on the proposal for a New Forest national park.

I have carefully considered the inspector's report on the public inquiry into the New Forest National Park (Designation) Order 2002 made by the Countryside Agency under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. In line with the inspector's recommendations, I have decided that the area now proposed for designation meets the criteria and purposes of a national park and should be managed by a national park authority to be established under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995. I have decided to confirm the designation order, with modifications, so creating a New Forest national park.

I accept the boundary recommended by the inspector with some modifications. The inspector has recommended the exclusion of some areas that are within the boundary proposed in the Countryside Agency's designation order, and the addition of three small areas that were not included. I am minded to agree the three additions, expanding one of them to take in a further area of land outside the designation order boundary. In addition, I have decided to retain two areas within the park that the inspector recommended should be excluded.

Under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 details of the proposed additions to the designation order boundary will be made available to the public for a minimum of 28 days, to enable any objections and representations to be made. Details of where and when details of the proposed additions can be viewed, and the time limits for the receipt of objections and representations, will be advertised shortly in the national and local press. I will consider all duly made objections and representations and if necessary call a public inquiry or a hearing to consider them. When the boundary is finalised, I will announce the confirmation of the designation order with its final modifications as well as the date for the creation of the New Forest national park.

When I confirm the designation order, I propose also to commit to confirming the order made by the Countryside Agency to revoke the South Hampshire coast area of outstanding natural beauty to coincide with the park coming into being. The New Forest national park as now proposed would cover over 95 per cent. of the land currently designated as the area of outstanding natural beauty and it would be inappropriate to have concurrent national landscape designations.

Depending on the successful conclusion of the further steps required to confirm the designation order, I propose to bring forward a further order under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995 to create a national park authority. I expect the new authority to take on its full range of statutory powers and functions from 1 April 2006.

DEFENCE

MSA Key Targets

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets have been set for the chief executive of MSA for financial year 2004–05.

The targets are as follows:

Key Target 1

To build and deliver, to schedule and within budget, all modules on the operational build programme as agreed with our key customer, the Defence Medical Services Department (DMSD), and to meet all authorised operational requirements for equipment, medical consumables and blood products. Also to meet unplanned requests from DMSD based on operational needs.

Key Target 2

To build and deliver, to schedule and within budget, all modules on the exercise and training build programme as agreed with DMSD, and to meet all authorised requirements for equipments, medical consumables and blood products.

Key Target 3

To meet demands for non-operational customers in UK and overseas as follows:

(a) Urgent (Priority Code 5)

Cat B consumables—ready for despatch same day as receipt of demand

Cat E equipment—with 24 hours initial contact made with supplier and customer informed when delivery will be despatched

Cat E equipment—delivered via Ludgershall despatched same day

(b) Routine (Priority Code 9–16)

Cat B Consumables—ready for despatch within four working days.

Cat E equipment—within three days initial contact made with supplier and customer informed when delivery will be despatched

Cat E equipment—delivered via Ludgershall despatched within three days

Target 95 per cent. achievement applies to (a) and (b)

Note: Target for Cat B consumables relates to items held in stock or readily available from trade.

Key Target 4

To work with our customers and stakeholders with the objective of delivering the key elements of the MSA change programme, which will deliver significant improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of the medical supply chain, contribute to CDL's strategic objectives and improve delivery to our customers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 29 June 2004

PRIME MINISTER

Chief Surveillance Commissioner Annual Report

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have laid before both Houses the annual report for 2003–04 of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Andrew Leggatt.

I am grateful to the Commissioner, and his office, for this report and the work that has gone into preparing it.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Service

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Paul Murphy): I have received the annual report for 2003–04 of the chief constable of the police service of Northern Ireland which is being presented to Parliament today as a Command Paper.

Copies of the report are available from the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

Independent Assessor of Military Complaints Procedures

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Ian Pearson): I have today laid in Parliament the annual report for 2003 of Jim McDonald, the independent assessor of military complaints procedures. The report of the independent assessor continues to provide valuable reassurance to both the public and the Government that the army's complaints procedures stand scrutiny. I will consider Mr. McDonald's report carefully and respond in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

FCO Security Overseas

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw): In my written statement to the House on 10 December 2003, *Official Report*, columns 84–86WS, I announced an independent internal review to look at the balance between security and operational effectiveness in the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) overseas. The review has now been completed. A summary of the reviewer's report is appended.

Introduction

The review was set up following the attack on the British Consulate General in Istanbul in November 2003. The terms of reference were: "To review the basis for the FCO's Security Strategy. In particular to re-examine the balance between security and operational effectiveness". The review looked at the range of security threats facing the FCO's posts over the next five to 10 years but focused mainly on terrorism. The aim is to ensure that the FCO's security strategy is on a consistently sound long-term basis that minimizes the risks, while enabling posts to function effectively in line with Government policies.

Methodology

The reviewer, Stuart Jack, consulted widely in the FCO and Whitehall, including with the trade union side; visited several overseas posts; met with a number of companies; and looked at the practice of some other governments, in particular the United States.

Background

The FCO's security measures are designed to protect most importantly its staff and their families, and also information, the integrity of IT systems, buildings, operations, and reputation. The FCO owes a legal duty of care to all its staff, UK-based and locally engaged.

The policy framework and therefore the operating context within which the FCO must seek to secure its security overseas is set out in the FCO Strategy ("UK International Priorities. A Strategy for the FCO", published on 2 December 2003). British foreign policy is to be "active and engaged around the world", with eight strategic policy priorities, including efforts against terrorism. Importance is attached to providing high quality public services, including consular and visa.

For the foreseeable future the greatest threat will be from terrorism, particularly but not exclusively from al-Qaeda and like-minded groups. The threat is global and dynamic. The vehicle-borne bomb will continue to be a weapon of choice for many terrorists. But the FCO must be prepared for other methods of attack, other locations and sources. There is a serious risk of threat displacement to British targets if they appear much softer targets than the Americans in particular.

There also remains a serious espionage threat. Particular care is needed over IT security. Crime is the most immediate threat for most staff overseas.

Findings and Recommendations

The review's main conclusion is that, while the FCO's existing security strategy does not need a fundamental overhaul, there is more that could be done to enhance security worldwide. The security strategy needs to be forward-looking, flexible and professional; with clear criteria and consistent standards, robust decision-making, audit trails, and good communication with staff; and adequately resourced.

The safety of staff and families comes first. Security should continue to be a factor when deciding what posts are tasked to do, and how and where.

Total risk avoidance—absolute security—is unrealistic. Overseas posts have an important job to do in protecting and furthering British interests, including in insecure countries. Risk management is fundamental to striking a balance between security and operational effectiveness and to the prioritisation of security resources. Better methods are needed to assess the vulnerabilities and threats facing each post. The FCO's Security Strategy Unit (SSU) have been developing a risk management matrix to inform security decisions along the lines suggested in the review.

The security awareness of FCO staff is generally good. The culture and resources dedicated to security understandably adapted to the lessening of some threats since the end of the cold war and the easing of the IRA threat. There is strong commitment from FCO senior management to security, and since Istanbul security efforts have been accelerated. But, in the light of the new and ever-changing threats, the FCO needs to devote more resources to security.

Final responsibility for security lies with the centre: the FCO Board and Ministers must remain regularly apprised of security issues. Heads of post and geographical directors in

the FCO are responsible for individual posts, working closely with the Security Strategy Unit (SSU). All staff share responsibility for their own and others' security.

All posts already have post security committees and designated post security officers. Lines of responsibility at each post, including Heads of post, must be clear and well understood. There should be more formal mechanisms for resolving any conflicts between professional security advice and operational or other requirements.

Security needs to be factored into decisions on the estate in an effective and consistent way. The review does not recommend a wholesale shift to "fortresses" or "bunkers", which would involve operational drawbacks, considerable resources and many years. Physical defences need to be considered within a more robust and objective framework, and all posts should undergo a "vulnerability audit". In some cases, this might result in a decision to relocate a post. Standards (for stand-off, glazing, etc) for new builds and acquisitions of offices and other accommodation should be readily understood. Enhanced standards should be applied to the highest risk posts. Decisions should be based on risk management.

The human dimension is as important as physical measures. The FCO needs more overseas security managers or locally engaged equivalents, in some cases possibly more armed guards. There should also be a small increase in the numbers of overseas security advisors and SSU staff and more done to plug into outside expertise.

The FCO has already increased its capacity to deliver security training and awareness to its staff. Formal security training should be mandatory. New staff at post should always be given a local security briefing on arrival in the job. Some staff with security responsibilities, such as management officers, need more comprehensive training before taking up their jobs and more time to carry out their security responsibilities when overseas.

The review makes almost 50 recommendations covering the areas mentioned above, many of them procedural or organisational and some related to resources, including buildings, security staff and training.

Conclusion

As the UK remains engaged across an uncertain world we must be prepared for considerable security challenges. On terrorism we are in for the long haul. To meet these challenges the FCO will need to continue to put a strong emphasis on security and ensure that the current efforts to enhance security can be fully implemented.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Building Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Phil Hope): It was announced in a written statement on 15 July 2003, *Official Report*, column 23WS, that the Government had decided to amend the building regulations to include requirements on electrical safety in dwellings as part P of those regulations as soon as suitable competent person self-certification schemes were in place.

The Building Regulations Advisory Committee has considered a number of applications to run such schemes and has recommended five of them for approval. The Government have accepted the recommendation and have approved schemes to be operated by BRE Certification Ltd, British Standards Institution, ELECSA Ltd, NICEIC Certification Services Ltd and Zurich Certification Ltd. These schemes are aimed at those carrying out electrical installation work as the primary activity of their business.

The Building Regulations Advisory Committee are continuing to consider a number of applications for schemes aimed at those who carry out installation work only as an adjunct to or in connection with the primary activity of their business. The Committee hopes to be able to make recommendations for approval on these shortly.

As suitable competent person schemes will be in place, the Government will be laying regulations to amend the building regulations before Parliament on 22 July, to bring part P into effect on 1 January 2005. The regulations will authorise the approved competent person schemes which will begin operating also on 1 January 2005. The Government will also publish the approved document for part P, giving guidance on the requirements of part P, and the final regulatory impact assessment on 22 July.

The introduction of part P should result in a significant reduction in the number of deaths, injuries and fires caused by defective fixed electrical installations.

Other parts of the building regulations have been reviewed. Later this week revised approved documents to the building regulations for part A, structure, and part C site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture, will be published along with amendments to the approved document to part E, resistance to the passage of sound. These changes were enabled by amendments to the building regulations. The statutory instruments to effect these changes were laid before the House on 8 June, (SI 2004 No. 1465 and SI 2004 No. 1466).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Efficiency

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Andrew Smith): In the last two spending reviews my Department has received substantial extra sums to invest in the modernisation of its office network and better IT. As a result, I announced at the time of the Budget our aim to reduce the Department's workforce by 30,000 by 2008. Today we have outlined the first phase of that transformation.

The Department is changing in a number of ways:

Since 2001, the Department has been rationalising its office network. The creation of Jobcentre Plus and The Pension Service combined the old benefits agency and employment service networks into two new agencies in modern offices that are focused on actively helping our customers;

The Pension Service has centralised its processing work into bespoke, larger centres providing economies of scale;

The work of The Pension Service, including achieving the Department's PSA target of at least 3 million households in receipt of pension credit by 2006, can be delivered from a substantially smaller number of pension centres than the current 29, now that the initial take-up phase has been successfully completed;

Some of this pension centre capacity can be utilised to improve the efficiency of benefit processing in Jobcentre Plus. Previously this processing would have been carried out in some 650 sites. We can now plan to concentrate this in some 100 benefit processing centres.

All of these changes, together with the results of tackling significant performance variation between offices doing the same job, smarter business processes and increased investment in our IT systems, mean that we will need fewer staff to deliver our services.

Since the Budget announcement detailed planning has been taking place across the Department. This has included discussions on the future size and shape of The Pension Service, the scope to integrate benefit processing in larger centres in Jobcentre Plus, and the continued modernisation of the Child Support Agency and Appeals Service.

As a result, I can today confirm that:

a number of pension centres can be made available for other uses;

six pension centres (Derby, Norwich—Baltic House, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Stockton and Wrexham) will transfer, together with staff, to Jobcentre Plus as part of their programme to modernise benefit processing. Jobcentre Plus will move, over time, from processing benefits in over 650 sites to 100 benefit processing centres;

The Appeals Service will take over Burnley and the Child Support Agency will take over Plymouth;

two pension centres, York and Liverpool, will no longer carry out pension service business from later this financial year and are not required by other parts of DWP. We will be actively seeking interest from the private sector an elsewhere in Government, taking into account planned relocation of civil service work from London and the South East in line with the recent Lyons Review. Closure would follow if no interest can be found.

The implications of these decisions for staff are subject to formal consultation with the trade unions. We have already outlined to them our policy proposals for handling these changes via redeployment, voluntary release schemes and, as a last resort, compulsory redundancies. We will be providing a wide range of support for staff including using Jobcentre Plus services as appropriate.

With these substantial efficiency improvements, we can continue to invest in the new deal and other programmes to help children, pensioners and disabled people.

I am immensely proud of the work this Department does and our commitment to customer service. We are now entering a new phase of our journey, moving towards our goal of a leaner and fitter organisation delivering world-class services to our customers.

TREASURY

Spending Review 2004

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): I will be making a statement to the House on the 2004 spending review on Monday 12 July.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 30 June 2004

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Essential Medicines

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the new UK Government paper "*Increasing Access to Essential Medicines in the Developing World: UK Government Policy and Plans*". This paper is published by the Department for International Development (DFID) on behalf of seven Government Departments—the Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Treasury, the Inland Revenue, the Patent Office and DFID. These Departments worked together to deliver the paper.

The lack of access to essential medicines in developing countries is one of the most pressing global health issues. Tackling this could save millions of lives every year—the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that as many as 4 million lives could be saved each year in Africa and South-East Asia with improved access to medicines. However, while some encouraging progress has been made in recent years, there remains a limited supply of affordable medicines and inadequate health systems to deliver them in many developing countries, and a continuing shortage of new products to meet developing country health needs.

We have strengthened collaboration and policy coherence across Government to address this issue and have jointly agreed next steps. These are outlined in the paper, and cover four areas:

Support to developing countries through the UK development assistance programme, with a focus on increasing poor people's access to health services;

trade policy, focusing on supporting developing countries in understanding and making use of the flexibilities within World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules governing intellectual property;

engagement with the business community, focusing on work with the pharmaceutical industry, to address the longer-term supply of affordable medicines to developing countries;

efforts—in the UK and Internationally—to stimulate increased research and development into new medicines and other healthcare products relevant to developing country health needs.

We will, for example:

work with UK research institutions to establish a UK Funders Forum for health research relevant to developing country needs;

monitor and evaluate the UK Vaccines Research Relief, a tax credit for the research and development of products for HIV, TB and malaria;

work with the pharmaceutical industry to develop a "best practice" framework, to support and encourage companies in their work to increase access to medicines;

implement any necessary legislation within the UK (and EU) to facilitate export to developing countries under compulsory licence, if requested, in line with the WTO General Council's Decision of 30 August 2003.

Implementation of the paper will require continued collaboration across Government. It will also require us to work in partnership with developing country Governments, international agencies and donors, civil society, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, the broader private sector and the research community.

TREASURY

Financial Services Authority

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Ruth Kelly): The Annual Report 2003–04 of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has today been laid before Parliament.

Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses. The report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Services Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Services Authority over the past 12 months against its statutory objectives.

DEFENCE

Government Contracts

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce that the Government have accepted the recommendations in the Review Board for Government Contracts' 2003 general review of the profit formula for non-competitive Government contracts.

This package of measures, to be implemented from 1 July 2004, represents a significant modernising of the current profit formula arrangements, and is consistent with the Department's defence industrial policy.

The measures that will be introduced include an alternative profit calculation methodology, a recognition that there are varying degrees of risk associated with defence non-competitive contracts, arrangements for addressing "profit on profit", a formula for sharing excess profits and unconscionable losses, and incentives to encourage timely submission of post-costing certificates.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Shatt Al Arab Incident

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): On 21 June a Royal Navy training team consisting of eight personnel and three small boats was detained by the Iranian authorities on the Shatt al Arab waterway near the southern extremity of the Al Faw Peninsula. The team was conducting a routine boat movement from Umm Qasr to Basra. The initial assessment, reflected in statements by a British Army

spokesman in Basra and the British Ambassador in Tehran, was that these service personnel could have strayed into Iranian waters by mistake.

Our first priority was for the safe return of the personnel. Discussions with the Iranian authorities secured the release of the eight on 25 June. They were immediately returned to the multinational division south east where they underwent a medical assessment and debriefing to establish their perspective of the incident. Since then, two of the team have returned home because their tour of duty has come to an end; another returned home today for medical reasons associated with the incident. The remainder of the team continues to work in Iraq.

We are continuing with negotiations for the return of the boats and equipment. The deadline set for their return passed yesterday. The equipment consists of personal weapons, ammunition, radios and navigation equipment including echo sounders (to measure the depth of the water), global positioning systems (to identify exact position) and up-to-date maritime charts.

I would like to reassure the House that British personnel are trained to observe the normal rules of maritime navigation and are issued with modern charts and equipment. This should be sufficient to prevent inadvertent digressions across the border and we are not aware of any previous allegations that the border has been violated.

In recent more detailed debriefing, the crews have said that they were operating inside the Iraqi border and were forcibly escorted into Iranian territorial waters. Our assessment continues, and will be greatly assisted by the retrieval of navigational information in the global positioning system equipment carried by the crews. We are very concerned about the blindfolding of the men and have made representations about this to the Government of Iran. We have also made it clear that we do not expect a recurrence of this type of incident.

Disposal Services Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): The agency was originally launched as the Disposal Sales Agency in October 1994 and was re-launched in November 2000, as the Disposal Services Agency. DSA provides a total disposal solution by acting as a broker and adding value through expert advice across the public sector. The agency operates very much in line with the Government's aim of more joined-up delivery. The chief executive of the agency has been set the following key targets for the financial year 2004–2005:

To achieve a disposal sales gross cash receipt of £20 million from sales of surplus Government owned equipment and stores. This figure reflects the planned surplus equipment disposal programme.

To meet the key performance indicators agreed in the customer supplier agreement (CSA) with the Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO).

To ensure that the agency is at the standard or above the standard of the public sector benchmarking report for overall customer satisfaction.

To secure £365,000 sales per person employed for commercial sales activities.

To ensure that the e-trade exchange is in operation in 2004–05 and that 30 per cent. of eligible agency contractors use it.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Home Loss Payments

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill): Following the annual review, my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister will today lay regulations to update the home loss payment thresholds in section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (as amended). Home loss payments are paid at a rate of 10 per cent. of the market value to owner-occupiers who are displaced from their homes as a result of compulsory purchase or certain housing orders. These are subject to maximum and minimum payments. Tenants receive a flat rate equal to the minimum payment to owner-occupiers.

With effect from 1 September 2004, the maximum payment to owner-occupiers displaced from their home will be increased from £31,000 to £34,000 and the minimum payment will be increased from £3,100 to £3,400. The flat-rate will be increased from £3,100 to £3,400.

The period of two months between laying the regulations and commencement will give acquiring authorities reasonable notice to revise their budgets for compensation. This is similar to the notice period that was given for previous amendments to home loss payments thresholds.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

East Midlands Development Agency

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Ms Patricia Hewitt): I have decided to appoint Bryan Jackson as the new chair of the board of the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA).

The appointment will begin on 14 December 2004 and is for three years, expiring on 13 December 2007. I have placed further details of this appointment in the Library of both Houses. The appointment has been made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Chris Mullin): I have arranged for copies of the first annual report by Fiona Lindsley, the independent monitor for entry clearance refusals without the right of appeal, to be placed in the Library of the House today.

The report covers a review of decisions taken in the calendar year 2002. It should have been submitted by 30 November 2003, but was delayed due to the late appointment of the independent monitor. I thank Ms Lindsley for her hard work in completing her first report as independent monitor for entry clearance matters.

I welcome Ms Lindsley's report. It contains a number of interesting recommendations, a number of which have already been addressed.

Ms Lindsley has started working on her second report, for the calendar year 2003, which should be submitted to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary by 30 November 2004.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Underfunded Pension Schemes (Insolvency)

The Minister for Pensions (Malcolm Wicks): On 14 May, the Government announced a financial assistance scheme for those who have lost out because they worked for companies that have gone insolvent and wound up their pension scheme underfunded. While the Government have no liability in respect of these schemes, they recognise that in some cases wind-ups have imposed severe hardship and the assistance scheme will offer significant help to those worst affected.

I subsequently said, during report stage of the Pensions Bill on 19 May, that by the end of June the Government would publish the results of their inquiries to establish the numbers affected and the scale of their losses. I have accordingly today placed a report in the Library.

The nature and level of any assistance given to pension scheme members under the financial assistance scheme will be subject to a number of factors including the design of the scheme and whether the significant Government commitment of funding from the taxpayer is supported by funding from industry. As I explained to the House on 19 May, we shall be designing the scheme in consultation with interested parties over the summer and autumn of 2004, with a view to having the legislative framework in place by the spring of 2005 and making payments as soon as practicable after that.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 1 July 2004

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Caroline Flint): I am pleased to inform the House that the review of section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 has now been completed. Section 24, the so-called confidentiality clause, prohibits the disclosure by Home Office Ministers and officials of confidential information relating to the use of animals in scientific procedures other than in the discharge of their functions under the 1986 Act. It creates a criminal offence and provides a maximum punishment of two years imprisonment and a fine for unauthorised disclosure of information. The Government undertook to review section 24 in the context of our commitment to freedom of information.

The conflicting views expressed about section 24 in the course of the review have shown it to be a complex and contentious issue that does not lend itself to a decision that will satisfy all those with an interest. The House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures, as well as animal protection and anti-vivisection groups, have called for the repeal of section 24. Those representing the views of many in the scientific community, while supporting other means of progressing openness and transparency about the use of animals in scientific research, have expressed significant concern about the potential impact of repealing section 24 and have urged strongly that it be retained.

In the circumstances, we have concluded that section 24 should be retained for the time being. We do not, however, rule out the future repeal of section 24 and, therefore, propose to review the matter again in two years' time.

In the meantime, we are pressing ahead with plans to increase openness about the use of animals in scientific procedures by publishing anonymised information about projects licensed under the 1986 Act as part of the Home Office publication scheme under the Freedom of Information Act. This can be done without repealing section 24 and is being taken forward as part of consultation with the scientific community about the revision and streamlining of the project licence application process. This consultation is now well advanced and new processes and training arrangements will be piloted over the summer 2004 with a view to publishing the first licence information under these arrangements in the autumn 2004.

In addition, we have concluded that there would be value in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate publishing an annual report on its work. The Inspectorate's first annual report will be published in the autumn of 2004.

DEFENCE

Defence Aviation Repair Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): The chief executive of DARA has been set the following key targets for financial year 2004–05.

Key Target	*Details*	*Target*
KT1–Quality	The measurement of attributable major customer concerns received from DARA's customers.	Achieve less than 15 attributable major customer concerns annually, on average FY2004–05—FY2006–07.
KT2–Business Performance and Efficiency	The measurement of DARA's return on capital employed (RoCE).	Achieve an annual return on capital employed of at least 3.5 per cent.
KT3–Business Sustainability	The measurement of DARA's order book cover.	Achieve a closing order book of at least £200 million at the end of FY2004–05, which includes at least £100 million to be deliverable in the following year.
KT4–Wider Markets	The measurement of DARA's progress towards wider markets penetration.	Present a business case to the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) for DARA's potential in the civil aerospace market, by end July 2004. Then, by the end of FY2004–05, to present a long-term business plan for significant growth in the proportion of revenue from non-MOD customers.
KT5–Cost Reduction	The measurement of DARA's reduction in costs.	To reduce total DARA costs by at least 5 per cent. in real terms by the end of 2004–05.

Defence Communications Services Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets have been set for the chief executive of the DCSA for financial year 2004–05 as follows:

Title	*Details*	*Target*
KT 1—SERVICE ASSURANCE	The measurement of the quantity and quality of the agency's services delivered.	To meet an average of 98 per cent. for measured services against the performance targets agreed in agency CSAs.
KT 2—SERVICE FULFILMENT	The measurement of the delivery of all newly commissioned/ changes to agency services.	To commission an average of 96 per cent. of new service requests on, or before, the dates agreed by customers with the DCSA.
KT 3—SERVICE AVAILABILITY	The measurement of the availability of all operational services.	To achieve an average service availability of 98 per cent. for all operational services.
KT 4—SERVICE SUPPORT	The measurement of the quality of the agency/customer interface.	To achieve an average 95 per cent. success rate against agreed standards in response to demands on DCSA operator assistance centres (OACs) and helpdesk facilities.
KT 5—CUSTOMER SATISFACTION	The measurement of customer satisfaction with customer interface, delivery and support.	To achieve a customer confidence index of 54.

Title	Details	Target
KT 6—EFFICIENCY MEASUREMENT	The measurement of the reduction in the average unit cost of output.	To achieve an improvement in efficiency by reducing the average unit cost of output by 4 per cent.
KT 7—PROJECT MANAGEMENT	The measurement of the agency's effectiveness in managing major complex projects.	To deliver new projects to time, cost and performance as expressed at the 90 per cent. confidence level to a tolerance of 9 per cent.

The Naval Recruiting and Training Agency

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Subsequent to a proposal by the agency's owner, the Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, I have today set the 2004–05 key targets for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency, as follows:

To deliver RN personnel to the trained strength (or to other training organisations), to the required quality standard, within 5 per cent. variance from the tasked requirement.

To deliver RN recruits to within 2 per cent. variance from the tasked requirement.

To maintain success rates of 95 per cent. in career training (including targeted employment modules) and 97 per cent. in examined pre-joining training.

To maintain the trained strength of the Royal Naval Reserve at 2120, pending review of the trained strength requirement.

To reduce the cost of the NRTA HQ overhead, compared with the 2003–04 baseline figure.

To achieve net benefits of £15.3 million in financial year 2004–05 from the partnering arrangement with Flagship Training Limited.

To maintain performance in phase 2 and phase 3 training delivered to Army and Royal Air Force personnel, following establishment of the Defence College of Electro-Mechanical Engineering.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Council of the European Union

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Denis MacShane): The forthcoming business in the Council of the European Union is as follows:

Date	Location	Event
July		
1	Brussels	Coreper 2
2–3	Maastricht	Competetiveness (Informal)
7	Brussels	Coreper 1
7–8	Brussels	Coreper 2
8	tbc	EU-Ukraine Summit
8–10	Maastricht	Social Policy (Informal)
9–10	Amsterdam	Transport (Informal)
12–13	Brussels	General Affairs & External Relations (GAERC)
12–14	Rotterdam	Informal Ministerial Education Youth and Culture
14	Brussels	Coreper 1
15	Brussels	Coreper 2
16–18	Maastricht	Environment (Informal)
19	Brussels	JHA Council
19	Brussels	Agricultural and Fisheries Council
22	Brussels	Coreper 2
23	Brussels	Coreper 1
August		
No meetings planned		
September		
1	Brussels	Coreper 1
2	Brussels	Coreper 2
3–4	Maastricht	Gymnich
5–7	Noordwijk	Agriculture and Fisheries (Informal)
8	Brussels	Coreper 1
8	Brussels	Coreper 2
9–10	Noordwijk	Health (Informal)
11	Scheveningen	ECOFIN
13–14	Brussels	GAERC
15	Brussels	Coreper 1
16	Brussels	Coreper 2
17	Brussels	Coreper 1
17–18	Noordwijk	Informal Ministerial Defence
20–21	Brussels	Agriculture and Fisheries Council
22	Brussels	Coreper 1
22	Brussels	Coreper 2
24	Brussels	Competetiveness Council
27	Brussels	(Possible) Council Transport, Telcom and Energy
29	Brussels	Coreper 1
29	Brussels	Coreper 2
30	Den Haag	JHA (Informal)
October		
1	Den Haag	JHA (Informal)
1	Brussels	Coreper 1
4	Brussels	Employment, Social Policy, Health, Consumer Affairs Council
6	Brussels	Coreper 2
6	Brussels	Coreper 1
7	Hanoi	EU- South Korea Summit
7–8	Brussels	Transport, Telecom and Energy Council
7	Brussels	Coreper 2
8–9	Hanoi	ASEM Summit
11–12	Brussels	GAERC
13	Brussels	Coreper 1
14	Brussels	Environment Council
14	Brussels	Coreper 2
15	Brussels	Coreper 1
18–19	Brussels	Agriculture and Fisheries Council
19	Brussels	Coreper 2
20	Brussels	Coreper 1
22	Brussels	Coreper 1
25–26	Brussels	JHA Council
27	Maastricht	Informal Ministerial—Development
27	Brussels	Coreper 1
27–28	Brussels	Coreper 2
29	Brussels	Coreper 1
November		
2–3	Brussels	GAERC
5	tbc	European Council
9–11	Groningen	Informal Ministerial—Integration
9	Brussels	Coreper 2
10	Brussels	Coreper 1
10	Brussels	Coreper 2
12	Brussels	Employment, Social Policy, Health, Consumer Affairs Council
12	Brussels	Coreper 1
15–16	Brussels	Education, Youth, Culture Council
17	Brussels	Coreper 2
17	Brussels	Coreper 1
18	Brussels	Coreper 2
19–20	Rotterdam	Informal Ministerial—Transport, Telecom, Energy

Date	*Location*	*Event*
19	Brussels	Coreper 1
22–23	Brussels	GAERC
22–23	Brussels	Agriculture and Fisheries Council
23	Brussels	Coreper 1
24	Brussels	Coreper 2
24	Brussels	Coreper 1
25–26	Brussels	Competitiveness Council
29	Brussels	Transport, Telecom and Energy Council
29–30	Rotterdam	Informal Ministerial—Urban Development
December		
[illegible]	Brussels	Coreper 1
1	Brussels	Coreper 2
2–3	Brussels	JHA Council
3	Brussels	Coreper 1
6–7	Brussels	Employment, Social Policy, Health, Consumer Affairs Council
8	Brussels	Coreper 2
8	Brussels	Coreper 1
9–10	Brussels	Transport, Telecom and Energy Council
9	Brussels	Coreper 2
13–14	Brussels	GAERC
13	Brussels	Coreper 1
15	Brussels	Coreper 1
17	Brussels	European Council
20	Brussels	Environment Council
21–22	Brussels	Agriculture and Fisheries Council
22	Brussels	Coreper 2

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Export Credits Guarantee Department

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Ms Patricia Hewitt): Further to previous statements to the House regarding trading fund status for the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on 22 July 2002, *Official Report*, columns 779–80W, on 17 December 2002, *Official Report*, column 45WS, and on 26 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 12WS, I can now tell the House about the measures which my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary and I have agreed to ensure the future stability and effectiveness of the provision of export credits and guarantees to British exporters. These measures will provide greater certainty for ECGD's future and a better deal for British exporters.

This has proved to be a challenging and complex process. We have listened carefully to the representations made to us by ECGD's customers. We have also been able to take account of the relevant points made by the Trade and Industry Committee in its timely Report to the House on 15 June (HC 506–1) on the work of ECGD. I welcome the Committee's analysis of the issues and I acknowledge its request to end the uncertainty about ECGD's future.

The House will be aware that I have begun to strengthen the top management team at ECGD. Earlier this year I appointed Graham Pimlott as Chairman. He has considerable banking experience and helped prepare the plans I am announcing today.

On 5 July, ECGD's new Chief Executive, Patrick Crawford, who also has a strong private sector background, will take up post.

They will be working with the Shareholder Executive, now part of the DTI, to prepare strategic and business plans for ECGD. Consistent with these measures, HM Treasury will adopt a more strategic approach to its oversight role.

We have all been aware of the comparisons made between ECGD and overseas export credit agencies, and we share a determination to see the standard of service rise to the world's best.

I can announce today that the Chief Secretary and I have agreed on a programme of action which will ensure ECGD has a firm basis for its future operations and enable the new top management team to introduce measures that offer British industry a world class export credit service.

The key points are:

ECGD will be authorised to offer its full range of current products and geographical spread of business.

ECGD will aim to reduce its premium rates to customers by up to £5 million per annum, as from April 2005, whilst complying with relevant international minimum premium benchmarks.

The DTI will invest up to £10 million over two years from 1 April 2005 to help ECGD improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operating framework in order to sustain reductions in premium rates.

The Government will continue to press for the elimination of interest rate subsidy on a multilateral basis. In the meantime, ECGD will continue to run a limited fixed rate export finance (FREF) scheme within the trading fund framework. This will be reviewed after three years in the light of experience and progress internationally.

A trading fund will be established with a capital framework to enable ECGD to take a more confident and expansive approach to cover. The aim will be for ECGD to make cover available at the right price according to the assessment of risk.

The Chief Secretary and I are agreed on the structure for the trading fund:

Trading fund will have two separate accounts—realisations and new business. They will be capitalised and accounted for separately and have separate financial objectives.

Capital for new business will be £1.8 billion. This capital will maintain the risk -reward balance on cover and pricing. There will be adequate headroom to manage both business growth and risk volatility.

The new business account target rate of return will be an affordable rate, specifically designed to deliver ECGD's existing pricing regime. The Government have charged ECGD to continue pricing to break-even, in line with international agreements on export credit, not to maximise profits.

The Government estimate the economic cost of this commitment to be approximately £120 million per annum, and will be publishing budgeting arrangements for this in the 2004 spending review.

Introduction of risk management policies and systems based on best commercial practice.

Revised Treasury consent giving ECGD greater autonomy on cover and premium policies.

The new business account will have four aims: to provide a good quality of service at a reasonable cost to exporters, to break-even in financial terms, to maintain the current risk—reward balance, and to remunerate its capital at an affordable rate of return. This has been calculated to ensure it can be met from current premium rates without any across the board increase. Initially, the affordable rate will be set at 1.25 percentage points above the current national loans fund (NLF) rate of interest. At today's NLF rate, the affordable rate would be just under 5 per cent. per annum.

In establishing the framework for the trading fund, I had three objectives. First, it should provide a structure for managing ECGD's business consistent with the current risk-reward balance and business domain. In other words, ECGD should be able to maintain its support for current levels of business. Second, it should help to improve risk management. This is vital to assure taxpayers that they are getting value for money. And third, there should be transparent arrangements for reporting and accounting the economic costs to Government associated with ECGD's business.

These provisions will come into effect progressively from today. A period of operating a pilot trading fund from next April will give management the opportunity to test and assess these arrangements before we establish the right level of capital for a statutory trading fund to be vested in April 2007. During this pilot, we will consult customers on whether the Pilot has achieved its objectives, with the intention of informing Ministers' decision on the move to a statutory trading fund in 2007–08.

This challenging programme will put ECGD on a sound business and financial footing for the future. I have every confidence that it will allow ECGD's staff to deliver the service which its customers expect and deserve.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Defence Committees

The Minister for the Environment and Agri-environment (Mr. Elliot Morley): On 20 April I announced the progress that we were making in implementing the outcome of the review of funding and administrative arrangements for delivering a more efficient, effective and accountable flood and coastal defence service. I said that I would be considering proposals from the Environment Agency for a single tier of flood defence committee in England to remove the bureaucracy and second-guessing of decisions involved in having two tiers of committee in several Environment Agency regions.

I have now completed this consideration and have decided to accept the agency's recommendations on the new structures. These recommendations, which followed extensive consultation by the agency, are that the local flood defence committees in the Anglian, Southern and Wessex regions should be abolished.

I have concluded that the present Anglian region should be split to create three new regional flood defence committees. One would comprise the areas of the present Essex and Norfolk and Suffolk local flood defence committees; one the area of the present Great Ouse local flood defence committee; and one the area of the present Welland and Nene and Lincolnshire local flood defence committees.

In Southern and Wessex regions, I have concluded that each should continue to be served by a single regional flood defence committee with their boundaries unaffected.

I believe that these decisions strike the right balance between the need to have regions that are large enough to have a sufficiently strategic focus while also maintaining in appropriate degree of local representation. I have also taken account of other issues including the diversity of the regions and the relative complexity of their flood defence needs. While I have on balance concluded that the present Anglian region should be split into three, as the Environment Agency recommended, I have also decided that this should be reviewed after three years of operation.

The composition of the regional flood defence committees will be unchanged; constituent local authorities will continue to appoint a bare majority of members; the Environment Agency will appoint two members and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will appoint the chair and remaining members. However, in putting forward their proposals for new structures the Environment Agency suggested a number of changes to the size of committees; my officials will be working with the agency and others on these proposals. Consideration will also be given to the titles of the three new regional committees in Anglia.

The Environment Agency proposed that in future the committees be known as "regional flood risk management committees" to reflect the fact that their remit, and that of the agency, is about managing flood risk in an holistic way rather than simply building flood defences. Such a change is not possible given that their present title is enshrined in the Environment Act 1995. However, it is important to acknowledge that the approach adopted by the committees is much wider than their title implies.

The orders to give effect to these changes will be introduced as quickly as possible with a view to their taking effect from April 2005.

I also want to refer to the announcement made by Carwyn Jones AM, in the National Assembly for Wales on 29 June, about the intention to create a single tier flood defence committee for Wales, based on the administrative boundary of Wales. He and I have both emphasised the importance of our Departments and the Environment Agency developing effective arrangements for managing the cross border catchments once this change takes effect; we will set these out in due course. This decision means that adjustments will be necessary to the boundaries of the Welsh, Severn Trent and North West flood defence committees, which are currently based on river catchments. We shall pursue the orders to give effect to these changes in conjunction with the National Assembly for Wales.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Yvette Cooper): I am delighted to announce the award of a total of £80 million to two more housing market renewal pathfinders over the next two years to begin to implement their strategic schemes. The funding comes from the £500 million market renewal fund announced in "Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future" in February 2003.

I am allocating this funding to the two pathfinders in the west midlands region. This will allow activity in the area to tackle the most acute weak and failing housing markets in the region and create sustainable communities.

The investment from the market renewal fund will be complemented by significant investment from other public programmes as well as from the private sector.

I am announcing today that the north Staffordshire market renewal pathfinder will receive £30 million and that the Birmingham Sandwell market renewal pathfinder will receive £50 million until March 2006 to start to tackle the problems caused by low demand. This is in addition to £4 million each received for an early action programme in June 2003.

By March 2006 the pathfinders expect to deliver:

In North Staffordshire the demolition of over 80 homes; the refurbishment of over 300 homes; more than 280 housing acquisitions; and additional management measures to over 11,500 homes.

In Birmingham and Sandwell the demolition of over 590 homes; the refurbishment of 1,600 homes; over 150 new homes built; more than 280 housing acquisitions; and additional management measures to over 9,000 homes.

Each of the pathfinder schemes has been independently scrutinised by the Audit Commission, and their findings have been published in a report. The Audit Commission has looked at the evidence base and the proposed strategy to help ensure that the schemes are realistic, offer value for money and will deliver long-term housing market renewal. To meet this aim, the Audit Commission has made a number of recommendations about each scheme. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and each pathfinder has accepted all the recommendations and funding will depend on effectively addressing them.

Housing Corporation

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill): I am pleased to announce that the report of the end to end review of the Housing Corporation is now available on he website of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister at http://www.odpm.gov.uk.

Paper copies will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses tomorrow.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Secretary of State for Health (Dr. John Reid): The chairman of the independent regulator of national health service foundation trusts has today announced that, in accordance with section 6 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, the independent regulator has authorised the following NHS trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 July 2004:

Addenbrooke's NHS Trust
City Hospital Sunderland NHS Trust
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust
Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust
Papworth Hospital NHS Trust
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospital Services NHS Trust
The Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Trust
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust

The independent regulator has deferred consideration of the applications from Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS trust and King's College hospital NHS trust. Further decisions on both trusts may be made at a later date by the independent regulator.

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS trust has not been authorised. In the coming weeks, I have asked officials in the Department to work with the trust to ensure that full support is provided for a further application for authorisation at a later date.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 5 July 2004

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Graf Report (BBC Online)

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell): I have today placed the independent review of BBC Online by Philip Graf in the Libraries of both Houses, together with a copy of the letter I have written to the Chairman of the Governors. The report is also available electronically on the Department's website www.culture.gov.uk.

In response to the review, I have asked the BBC to consider all of Philip Graf's recommendations, and to respond fully by the end of October 2004. I have asked that the Governors' response include a redrafted version of Online's remit and a statement of how the corporation intends to involve the independent sector along the lines set out by the report.

I have not, at this stage, imposed any further conditions on BBC Online.

The reviews will begin immediately and will run concurrently. In accordance with conditions that I laid down when giving my approval for the BBC to develop these new digital services, both reviews will include both a period of public consultation and a market impact study. I have asked both reviewers to submit their reports to me by the end of August 2004.

SOLICITOR GENERAL

British Soldiers (Prosecution)

The Solicitor-General (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following ministerial statement on 2 June 2004, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WS21–22.

"On 19 June 2004 the Army Prosecuting Authority directed that Private Johnston, 1st Battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, should stand trial on one offence of unlawful wounding contrary to Section 20 of the 1861 Act. There is an alternative charge of an offence under section 69 of the Army Act 1955 in relation to negligent handling of a weapon. The matter relates to a non-fatal shooting of an Iraqi boy, aged 13 years, which occurred on Monday 15 September 2003.

No date has yet been set for trial or a preliminary hearing in this matter".

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 6 July 2004

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNAIDS

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): I am announcing today a new commitment of £36 million over four years (2004–07) for UNAIDS (the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS). This will support the UNAIDS Secretariat, its Country Coordinators, and the 10 "co-sponsor" agencies that together make up the Joint Programme[1]. The new commitment represents a tripling of our core funding to UNAIDS compared with the past four years. DFID is finalising a new UK strategic partnership with UNAIDS to accompany the multi-year financing arrangement, linked to UNAIDS' own work programme. DFID is also increasing its direct funding to several co-sponsor agencies including the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

UK funding will enable UNAIDS to expand its work to ensure developing countries affected by HIV and AIDS can access appropriate and coordinated support from donors. UNAIDS will be working with Governments to take forward the "Three Ones" initiative, which stresses the responsibility donors have to work through one National HIV and AIDS Action Plan, through one co-ordinating authority and to work to one monitoring and evaluation framework in each country.

UK funding will also support UNAIDS' advocacy work. This includes helping to ensure new or neglected issues are taken up, and building partnerships across Government, the private sector and civil society. UNAIDS will be working with the World Health Organisation and others to ensure that treatment programmes address equity and access issues and that a proper balance is maintained between prevention and treatment. UK funding will also support UNAIDS' technical work, including helping countries access new funding and ensuring it is used properly. UNAIDS has a strong track record in this area.

[1] The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the UN Education and Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Sexual and Reproductive Health

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): I am today publishing a DFID position paper on sexual and reproductive health and rights. It describes progress to date and sets out what remains to be done. It will form the basis for planning future investment and activities. The paper complements the UK's call for action on HIV/AIDS and DFID's target strategy papers on "Better Health for Poor People" and "Realising Human Rights for Poor People".

The paper recognises sexual and reproductive health and rights as central to human development and to achieving the millennium development goals. The UK is firmly committed to the programme of action of the international conference on population and development of 1994 and its targets of reproductive health for all by 2015. The paper states our continued commitment to work with country Governments and partners to achieve improved maternal and newborn health, accessible, high quality family planning choices, elimination of unsafe abortion, reduced incidence of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, greater awareness of sexual health and reduced risky behaviour.

The paper recognises the progress that has been made since 1994, but also highlights new challenges, including the increased burden of HIV and AIDS. DFID will use opportunities to integrate HIV and sexual and reproductive health services in ways that respond better to people's needs, especially those of women and young people.

I am placing a copy of the paper in the Library of the House. It is also available on DFID's website at www.dfid.gov.uk

Today I am announcing increased funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UK will be providing £80 million over four years (2004–07) in core funding to UNFPA to support its work on sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development and gender. UNFPA's work is also a critical part of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts within the framework of the joint UN programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Beacon Councils

The Minister for Local and Regional Government (Mr. Nick Raynsford): We are launching round six of the beacon council scheme on Wednesday 7 July with the publication of the application brochure setting out instructions on how to apply, the detailed criteria that will be used to assess applications, and what being a beacon will mean. Copies of the brochure will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The beacon council scheme provides a remarkably popular and successful way of both celebrating and promoting best practice in local government. In the first five rounds of the scheme, 231 beacon awards have been made in 49 service themes. Learning exchanges, where authorities can both disseminate their good practice and learn from the excellence of others, have now been attended by nearly all authorities. These events have helped and will continue to help raise the level of service provision by local government to the people of this country.

We are inviting all authorities (other than those rated "poor" under the CPA) that believe they have achieved excellence in one or more of this year's beacon themes to apply for beacon status. This round's themes for which we are now inviting applications are:

Affordable Housing

Asset Management

Effective Environmental Health

Getting Closer to Communities

Healthy Communities

Integrated Children's Services

Promoting Racial Equality

Supporting Carers

Supporting New Businesses

Sustainable Energy

Applications are invited by 9 September 2004. Beacon authorities will be announced in April 2005 and hold beacon status until the end of June 2006.

Ordnance Survey

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Yvette Cooper): Following Ministerial approval of the business plan, key performance targets have been agreed for Ordnance Survey in 2004–05.

Ordnance Survey will report externally against a set of agency performance monitors (APMs), as required of all executives agencies in Government, as follows:

To achieve an operating profit before interest and dividends of £1.8 million for the financial year 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

To achieve an efficiency gain in data collection activity averaging 5.5 per cent. per annum over the period April 2003 to March 2006.

Some 99.6 per cent. significant real world features are represented in the database within six months of completion.

To continuously improve the timeliness of the supply of data to customers with a success rate of not lower than 95 per cent.

To achieve a 5 per cent. increase in business with customers transacted by e-channels.

To reduce carbon emissions from Ordnance Survey Headquarters by 26 per cent. against the base year of 2000–01.

These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's continuing commitment to customers, improved value for money for all of its stakeholders and commitment to Government policies.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Yvette Cooper): Following ministerial approval of the business plan, key performance targets have been agreed for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference centre for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

The agency's principal financial target for 2004–05 is to achieve a minimum dividend payment to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of £1,000,000.

An operational target has been set to achieve combined room occupancy of 470 days in the three key conference areas within the centre.

The agency also has the following quality of service targets:

Overall score for value for money satisfaction of 90+ per cent.

The number of complaints received to be less than two per 100 events.

An average response time when answering complaints of less than four working days.

TREASURY

Public Expenditure

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Paul Boateng): The Treasury will publish the 2003–04 "Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn" White Paper on Tuesday 20 July.

The White Paper is an annual report to Parliament on the provisional outturn for public expenditure. It focuses on spending within Departmental expenditure limits (DEL) and annually managed expenditure (AME), including information on individual supply estimates and administration costs limits.

The outturn figures are described as provisional because they may be revised when Department's final accounts are published, usually in the autumn.

A copy of the White Paper will be available in the Libraries of the House and will be accessible on the Treasury website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Iraq (Export Licence Applications)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Bill Rammell): Following consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Trade and Industry recently approved two licences to export military list goods to Iraq. The arms embargo against Iraq remains in place under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1483 (22 May 2003) and 1546 (8 June 2004). UNSCR 1483 (2003) includes an exception for "arms and related materiel required by the (coalition provisional) authority to serve the purposes of this and other related resolutions".

Accordingly, prior to the hand over of power on 28 June and the coalition provisional authority ceasing to exist, Her Majesty's Government considered it appropriate to grant licences for the export of the military listed goods on these two applications for use by private security companies, one working under contract to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the other working under contract to the coalition provisional authority, the US Department of State and the project management office in Iraq. The licences are consistent with the consolidated EU and national arms export licensing criteria. Future applications continue to be assessed on a case by case basis against the UN embargo and consolidated criteria, taking into account the circumstances prevailing at the time.

International Court of Justice

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Bill Rammell): The Government have amended the United Kingdom's declaration accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice under article 36(2) of the statute of the court. A copy of the revised declaration, set out in a letter dated 5 July 2004 to the United Nations Secretary-General, has been placed in the Library of the House.

The revised declaration makes two main changes to the former declaration dated 1 January 1969. The first updates from 24 October 1945 to 1 January 1974 the cut-off date for the acceptance of the court's jurisdiction, thus excluding stale claims. The effect is that jurisdiction is not accepted in respect of disputes which arose before 1 January 1974. The second is to broaden the scope of the previous Commonwealth exception, so that jurisdiction is not accepted in respect of any dispute with the Government of any other country which is or has been a Member of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth exception is of long standing and is retained by a number of Commonwealth countries.

Though these changes are of general application, their immediate significance is that they prevent any Commonwealth country from circumventing the present limitations by withdrawing from the Commonwealth and then instituting proceedings against the United Kingdom in respect of an existing dispute. The Government have acted to prevent such a move as we believe it is against the spirit of the existing Commonwealth exception.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Trade and Investment White Paper

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Ms Patricia Hewitt): I am today publishing the White Paper on trade and investment, entitled "Making Globalisation a Force for Good".

This White Paper is being published at a pivotal moment in the history of the international trade agenda. The European Union and the new European Commissioners taking up their posts this autumn will have a vital role in ensuring the benefits of globalisation are delivered in Europe and beyond, notably through the completion of the WTO Doha development agenda.

The White Paper presents a positive vision of globalisation and Britain's approach to trade and the WTO negotiations, to achieving our objectives of boosting prosperity at home and fighting poverty overseas. It explains how countries benefit as much, if not more, from opening their own markets as from persuading others to open theirs.

The White Paper therefore presents a series of challenges to the European Union. In order to thrive in a globalising world, the EU has to redouble its efforts to improve its own competitiveness. At the same time, it needs to look outwards, placing new policies and regulations in a global context. The EU, together with other developed countries, has to reject the mercantilist approach to trade that prizes only exports and inward investment as opposed to international trade and investment as a whole.

Specifically, it must tackle the continued harmful effects of the common agricultural policy. The EU and other developed countries should commit to eliminate export subsidies, to make further reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and to reduce agricultural tariff peaks towards the maximum levels allowed for non-agricultural products.

The White Paper describes the changing nature of international trade and investment. International trade is moving away from traditional patterns of imports and exports towards a world of global partnerships and joint ventures. Government services to UK companies have to respond to this. I announced in this House on 1 July the new arrangements that we are setting in place for the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The White Paper also sets out the role of UK Trade and Investment—the Government's lead national provider of international trade and investment support for business.

The White Paper sets out how we think international trade and investment can and should work to reduce poverty in the poorest countries. The need to reduce poverty—working towards the millennium development goals—is a key challenge for this Government.

To fight poverty, the EU and other developed countries must tackle the barriers—both tariffs and non-tariff barriers such as excessively burdensome technical regulations—that currently prevent poor countries from selling to us.

The evidence shows that those developing countries who have been more successful in fighting poverty tend to be those who have opened their own markets to international trade. But we have learned that developing countries need to open their markets in a properly sequenced way as part of a broader plan for their economic development and poverty reduction.

In order to benefit from international trade and investment, the poorest countries need to put in place a full range of complementary policies. We need to work with these countries to help them tackle the key challenges: health, education, the transport and communications infrastructure, good governance and effective social protection.

This White Paper has been produced following widespread consultation with interested parties in the UK. We are grateful to everyone who has helped us and we look forward to continuing a dialogue on these issues.

In the meantime, I look forward to working with ministerial colleagues in other countries—both inside and outside the EU—to win the argument against protectionism and mercantilism in international trade. We will take the opportunity of the UK Presidencies of the EU and of the G8 next year to take this forward.

I am confident that this White Paper will contribute to pursuing the UK's objectives in the area of international trade and investment.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 7 July 2004

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accession State Nationals (Transitional Arrangements)

The Minister for Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Desmond Browne): I am today publishing early information on the United Kingdom's transitional arrangements for workers from the new European member states in the first two months after accession on 1 May.

Management information from the worker registration scheme shows that the majority of those registering were in the country before European Union (EU) enlargement on 1 May, and that the predicted dramatic increase of new arrivals has not materialised. This is consistent with previous enlargements, and with the experiences of our European neighbours, including Ireland and Sweden who have opened their labour markets to new EU citizens arriving legitimately. There is no evidence that accession workers are exploiting the benefits system.

Today's figures prove that fears that the scheme would not pick up the full range of workers from accession countries were unfounded, as the advantages of being legitimate have persuaded people that registration is a sensible way forward. Today's figures also show that most media speculation about the numbers of new arrivals was groundless. Clearly it is too early to give a full and conclusive picture—as the Government made clear at the time the transitional arrangements were announced. Full figures will be included in regular quarterly statistics bulletins, starting in November. These preliminary figures are being issued in the light of public interest and to accompany the figures, which the Office of National Statistics (ONS) are publishing today, on the total number of visitors from the accession states.

There were just over 24,000 applicants to the worker registration scheme during May and June. Of these, at least 14,400 (over 60 per cent.) were already in the UK before 1 May, and just over 8,000 were new arrivals. The worker registration scheme has given those nationals of the accession states who were in the country before 1 May—including those who may have been working illegally—the chance to legitimise their status and to contribute formally to the UK's economy, as well as allowing us to monitor the participation of workers from accession states in the UK labour market. Early indications suggest that the numbers registering have peaked and are beginning to fall back: figures for the last two weeks in June are 25 per cent. below those for late May and early June.

It is important to note that these figures do not indicate levels of permanent migration from the new member states to the UK. It is too early to say at this stage how many of those coming will stay in the longer term. Experience of previous EU enlargements suggests that many of those registering to work will be here for short periods only, before returning home. Since May 1 there has been a good deal of anecdotal evidence, reported more widely abroad than in the UK, of job-seekers from the accession states returning home after brief periods of work or unsuccessful attempts to find work.

Our monitoring arrangements also show that negligible numbers of accession nationals have tried to claim state support since 1 May. Around 240 claims have been made for income support and job seeker's allowance, of which all but six have been refused immediately: the remainder are still under consideration. Our evidence suggests that the vast majority of those applying for state support were here before 1 May.

The figures that ONS are publishing today, based on the international passenger survey, show how citizens from the new EU are exercising their new rights to free movement. These new EU citizens have the right to travel freely across borders throughout the EU, regardless of any restrictions which some member states have placed on their right to work once they get there. Accordingly the 20 per cent. increase on last year's UK entry figures for May is to be expected. The ONS data show that many are coming here for short periods of time as visitors on business or on holiday—boosting our £11.9 billion a year tourism industry and local economies.

The remainder of this statement gives further detail from the worker registration scheme and the numbers of people claiming benefits and housing. Some 19,946 applications to the worker registration scheme have been approved (92 per cent.), 6 per cent. were withdrawn and 2 per cent. were rejected. Our data show that 59 per cent. of those who registered with the worker registration scheme are from Poland, 17 per cent. are Lithuanian and 8 per cent. Slovakian. The overwhelming majority are young (83 per cent. are aged between 18 and 34), and single (94 per cent. have no dependants). The gender split is even (52 per cent. males to 48 per cent. females), and relatively few registered workers are students (9 per cent.).

There is already early evidence that accession state nationals are playing an important part in the UK labour market. Since 1 May, we estimate that registered workers are contributing over £4 million a week to UK GDP and paying over £0.5 million a week in tax and national insurance. The majority are filling low to medium skilled jobs in London, Anglia, Central England and the South East. Almost all registered workers (96 per cent.) are working full time and some of those working part time have more than one job.

As expected, many applicants are employed predominantly in sectors where there are large number of vacancies, and in many cases, recruitment difficulties. Data from the ONS for April 2004 showed that employers reported 181,000 vacancies in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sectors (well over a quarter of all vacancies recorded by the ONS survey). Data from the worker registration scheme show that

the majority of registered workers are employed in hospitality and catering (6,523 workers, i.e. 34 per cent.), administration, business and management (3,153 workers, 17 per cent.), and agriculture (3,131 workers, 17 per cent.). We have reduced the quotas for the seasonal agricultural workers scheme and the sectors based scheme to take account of the impact of EU enlargement.

The latest figures for the quarter immediately prior to EU enlargement show the UK labour market performing strongly. The economy is thriving: unemployment is down and employment is up. Employers and our public services are benefiting from a larger and more flexible labour pool, including skilled workers. Our data show that highly skilled workers are amongst those registering, for example there were 61 accountants, 53 nurses, 25 teachers and four lawyers authorised to work in the UK in May and June.

Some 98 per cent of the national insurance numbers allocated to nationals of the accession states were for employment purposes, and fewer than 2 per cent. for benefit purposes.

Accession country nationals who are in employment are eligible for tax credit and child benefit in the same way that any other EU nationals are, though very few have chosen to apply. Since 1 May, only 190 claims by accession state nationals for child benefit were approved. This compares with a total child benefit recipient population of approximately 7 million. Some 55 per cent. of applicants have provided information about their arrival date in the UK—of those 99 per cent. were in the UK before 1 May.

The number of accession country nationals applying for homelessness assistance was also very low (102), and the majority of these (79 per cent.) were refused. All 21 of those found eligible were in the UK before the 1 May. Two local authority houses have been let to accession nationals since 1 May, representing less than 1 per cent. of the total average monthly lettings. Again, both households concerned were in the UK before 1 May.

Data for the period July—September 2004 will be released in November.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Skills Strategy (Progress Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Mr. Ivan Lewis): In July 2003, the Government launched the national skills strategy, "21st Century Skills". The skills strategy is primarily a strategy for England, reflecting the devolution of responsibility for education and training to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The strategy's aim is to ensure that employers have the right skills to support the success of their businesses, and individuals have the skills they need to be both employable and personally fulfilled. Significant progress has been made in the first year of the strategy and today we are holding a key conference and the skills alliance is publishing a progress report to set out the successes to date and the challenges for the year ahead. There is now a real momentum for change, and a strong sense of shared purpose and enthusiasm, and I would like to make everyone aware of the following achievements.

The skills alliance has brought together key partners with an interest in skills and productivity—Department for Education and Skills, Department for Trade and Industry, Department for Work and Pensions, Treasury, the CBI, the TUC, Small Business Council and the key delivery organisations led by the Learning and Skills Council. The skills alliance's role is to oversee effective implementation of the strategy and, today, has published its first annual report on progress.

The skills strategy emphasised the need to move away from a supply driven education and training system towards a demand-led approach. We are driving this forward by:

- improving our understanding of employers' skills needs and their contribution to raising productivity;
- working with employers to ensure that the skills of their employees are effectively deployed to support business development; and
- ensuring that skills demand drives the design of training programmes and qualifications.

The "Success for All" reform strategy, launched in November 2002, has been a key factor in raising standards, improving quality, and ensuring that colleges and post-16 providers become more flexible and responsive to employers' needs. I am very pleased with the way in which the further education sector is embracing these reforms and that standards and responsiveness are improving.

During the year, colleges and other training providers have successfully continued to expand the existing flow of people with skills, training and qualifications, thus meeting the needs so far of individuals and of employers, including:

- Basic Skills—200,000 learners achieved at least one Skills for Life qualification this year. Since 2001, 2.3 million learners have taken up 4.6 million Skills for Life learning opportunities.
- Level 2—260,000 more adults in the workforce achieved qualifications at least to full level 2[1] at the end of 2003 compared to autumn 2002. The proportion of adults in the workforce qualified to Level 2 is now 71 per cent.[2]
- Apprenticeships—246,000 16–24 year olds were enrolled by the end of March 2004. There have been over 1 million entrants to the programme so far.
- Foundation degrees—currently 24,500 students are enrolled on foundation degree courses, with employers involved in both the design and delivery.
- Overall flow of qualifications—nearly 3 million qualifications were achieved by adults in 2002–03.

Other progress on the key areas within the strategy includes:

- For employers—there are over 60,000 employees on ETP through 10,000 employers, 18 sector skills councils, better business support, in particular for SMEs, and new apprenticeship family launched.

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[1] A full level 2 refers to any qualification equivalent in standard and breadth to 5 GCSEs at A*–C or a national vocational qualification at level 2.

[2] Labour force survey, Winter 2003–04.

For individuals—over 2,200 low skilled individuals benefiting from financial help with adult learning grant pilots, we are about to begin phased introduction of new level 2 entitlement in package of support in NE and SE, fewer adults without a full level 2, better IAG all over the country with reformed service standards.

On qualifications—the work on reform of qualification system for adults will be set out at the skills strategy one year on event, Tomlinson proposals for 14–19, new qualifications to meet employer need.

With colleges and training providers—we continue to build on success for all reform. Strategic area reviews underway, new LSC business cycle, plan led funding, upwards trend in college success rates, we are about to consult on reform of fees and funding.

Through partnerships—new skills alliance and regional skills partnerships, NEP report to drive welfare to workforce development agenda including through new deal for skills, Government leading by example and addressing skills issues in all Departments bodies.

These achievements represent significant progress during the year. We have been heartened by the widespread support that the strategy has received, the recognition that we have to get the implementation right if we are to achieve our national economic and social objectives, and the determination shown by organisations and individuals across the board to play their full part.

However, there is much more to do, and it will require sustained commitment over a period of years to address the deep-seated barriers to skills investment, and so achieve our economic and social goals.

Copies of the Skills Alliance: "Skills Strategy Progress Report"; "Skills Strategy Progress Report Technical Supplement On Underlying Data and Evidence"; "Government Meeting Its Responsibilities"; and the "Skills for Life Annual Review 2003–2004" have been placed in the Library and are available in the Vote and printed paper offices.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Legal Services Ombudsman

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Mr. David Lammy): The legal services ombudsman has today published the 13th Annual Report and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Regional Air Services Consultation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tony McNulty): I would like to announce that the DfT's consultation on the protection of regional air services to London is being launched today.

The UK Government are consulting on criteria for the implementation of policy announced in the "Future of Air Transport" White Paper in December. The Government are committed to clarifying the circumstances in which it is appropriate to intervene to guarantee a minimum level of air services on existing routes to London from UK regional airports. The consultation will provide a strong basis for the next stage of policy development. The consultation closes on 8 October 2004.

The consultation document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is also available on the Department for Transport's web site.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

UK Inward Investment 2003–04 Report

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Ms Patricia Hewitt): With my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I am pleased to inform the House that the UK remains number one in Europe for inward investment.

UK Trade and Investment announced today, at its launch of the UK Inward Investment 2003–04 Report, that there were 811 direct investments in the UK by foreign owned companies between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2004. This is an increase of 14 per cent. on the year before and confirms the UK's position as the top investment location in Europe. Total jobs figures were up 8 per cent. to 59,217 of which 25,463 were new jobs (down 26 per cent. on the previous year) and 33,754 were safeguarded jobs (up 41 per cent. on 2002–03).

This performance reflects the confidence that companies around the world continue to show in the business climate in the UK. The number of new projects has increased by 8 per cent. from 314 in 2002–03 to 339 in 2003–04 while expansions by existing investors increased by 18 per cent. from 234 in 2002–03 to 285 in 2003–04.

The competition is fierce. But we will not allow our position as market leader in Europe to make us complacent. UKTI will further strengthen and sharpen its operations in priority markets and the Government will continue to ensure that the UK provides economic growth and stability and an innovative climate to attract investment.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment 2003–04 Report to be placed in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 8 July 2004

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Regional Planning Guidance (South East)

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill): My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister is today publishing for public consultation proposed changes to regional planning guidance for the South East. These proposed changes concern policies on energy efficiency and renewable energy and policies on tourism and related sports and recreation. They follow the public examination in November 2003 and the report of the independent panel in March 2004.

The changes stem from a partial review of RPG9 that aims to expand and further amplify policy on these topics. On commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill RPG9 will be part of a statutory regional spatial strategy (RSS).

Proposed changes include new and revised policies to encourage energy efficient development and facilitate new renewable energy generation facilities. Additional spatial policy on renewable energy includes sub-regional targets for the deployment of renewable energy development to help the South East region contribute to the Government's commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Guidance on tourism and related sports and recreation sets out the main areas in the region that are important for tourism and encourages joint working to manage and promote tourism and recreation activity.

Overall the panel considered the drafts to be broadly compatible with RPG9 and national policy. The panel did, however, recommend some changes. For example, on energy recommendations included the inclusion of landfill gas within the targets for generation, further definition of small-scale development and updates to the text to better reflect the Government's Energy White Paper. For tourism and related sport and recreation changes included revisions and additions to areas identified as important for tourism (including the River Thames), deletion of South Downs and New Forest National Parks as a priority area, further reference to growth areas in policy on regionally significant sporting facilities and additional clarification on the circumstances under which hotels may be exempt from the sequential test directing major travel generating uses to town centres.

Government are grateful for the recommendations of the panel. Government are proposing not to accept two of the panel's recommendations. These concern the application of landscape character assessment to all renewable energy schemes (the draft continues to recommend landscape character assessment in protected and sensitive landscapes) and exclusion of international attractions with specific catchment area requirements from a sequential test to direct new major development to growth areas and priority areas for economic regeneration.

The process of comprehensively reviewing RPG9 has already begun. Further refinement of these policies will be continued through this process. As part of this work the South East of England regional assembly is working towards improving the monitoring of renewable energy and tourism development. I support this valuable work.

I have today written to the regional assembly with the proposed changes. There will now be a public consultation period on the proposed changes, which will end on 3 September.

Copies of the relevant documents will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses and will also be provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

Council Tax Capping

The Minister for Local and Regional Government (Mr. Nick Raynsford): On 29 April, I made a statement to the House, setting out how the Government proposed to handle authorities which had set excessive budgets for 2004–05, *Official Report*, columns 1019–1021. I said that we were designating six local authorities and one fire authority, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, with a view to capping them in a year. I also said that we were nominating a further four fire authorities and three police authorities with a view to taking action to restrain their budgets in 2005–06—either by setting a notional budget for this year against which future increases would be measured or by capping them in advance for next year.

The designated authorities were given 21 days in which to challenge the maximum budgets we proposed for 2004–05 and to provide us with the information we requested. The nominated authorities were required to send us information within the same period. All the designated authorities challenged the proposed maximum budgets and all the nominated authorities made representations against their nomination. Ministerial colleagues and I have met delegations from all 14 authorities.

Having carefully considered the representations made to us both orally and in writing and having taken into account all relevant information, I can now announce how we intend to proceed.

I am laying before the House today, for its approval, a draft order setting the following maximum budgets for six of the designated authorities in 2004–05:

Herefordshire	£175,320,000
Nottingham	£331,055,000
Torbay	£138,815,000
Fenland	£12,223,000
Shepway	£15,494,000
Hereford and Worcester Fire	£25,798,000

In all but one of these cases, the maximum budget is the same as we proposed in April. The exception is Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority, for which we are setting a higher cap than originally proposed to reflect the savings which the authority can reasonably be required to make. I am satisfied that the authority will be able to deliver a good service and all its statutory functions within the revised maximum budget.

I am cancelling the designation of Telford and Wrekin and nominating it instead with a proposed notional budget for this year of £169,374,000. This is the same as the maximum budget we proposed when it was designated in April. Had the authority been capped in year, its council taxpayers would have received a rebate of only 66p per band D property. We are writing to the authority today and it will have 21 days in which to challenge the proposed notional budget.

We are also writing today to the seven local authorities which were nominated in April, proposing the following notional budgets for this year:

Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire	£23,146,000
County Durham and Darlington Fire	£26,091,000
Essex Fire	£63,292,000
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire	£38,981,000
Cumbria Police	£85,462,000
Northamptonshire Police	£96,663,000
West Mercia Police	£165,321,000

The authorities will have 21 days in which to challenge the proposed notional budgets, which are the budgets against which future increases will be measured for capping purposes.

We are keeping our promise to act on high council tax increases. We have increased funding to local government by 30 per cent. since 1997. There is simply no justification for excessive tax increases and—as we have shown—we will take action to deal with these.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Ombudsman (Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Paul Murphy): The police ombudsman for Northern Ireland's annual report for 2003–04 is published today. Copies of the report have been laid in the House.

Justice Oversight Commissioner (Second Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Paul Murphy): The Government have received and welcomed the second report from the justice oversight commissioner, the right hon. the Lord Clyde, on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the review of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. Consistent with his terms of reference, the report was submitted to the Attorney General, Lord Filkin, Minister for the Northern Ireland Court Service, and me in June.

Lord Clyde concludes that in the period of this report good progress continues to be made in the implementation of the review's recommendations on a number of fronts. While a few delays in progress have been noted, he believes that for the most part the momentum has been maintained and important initiatives have been pursued with vigour. He comments that there is now visible evidence that demonstrates the progress which is being made and provides promise of the eventual implementation of the changes recommended in the criminal justice review. The Government warmly endorse these conclusions.

Copies of the Commissioner's report have been placed in the Library.

Public Inquiries

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Paul Murphy): On 1 April I announced the establishment of three public inquiries, into the deaths of Robert Hamill, Billy Wright and Rosemary Nelson. I will be publishing a report today setting out the principles that will govern these inquiries and the progress made in establishing them. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

These inquiries are being established because it is essential that all people in Northern Ireland can have confidence in integrity of the state and its institutions. Where there are serious allegations of wrongdoing, it is important that the facts are properly established. The Government will continue to press ahead with the detailed arrangements for the inquiries, including the appointment of chairmen, as quickly as possible.

As I have said previously, it is also important that we find a way in Northern Ireland of dealing with the past in a way that recognises the pain associated with it without allowing it to destroy all hope of a better future. Throughout the summer, I will be considering the options for doing this, taking on board the views of a range of experts, with a view to wider consultation in the autumn.

Regional Development Strategy (Annual Report June 2004)

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. John Spellar): Earlier today I placed in the Libraries copies of the annual report on the implementation of the regional development strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 (RDS) covering the period 2002–03.

Annual reporting on the implementation of the RDS involves assessment of progress being made against a number of critical threshold indicators, and each of the strategic planning guidelines (SPGs) contained within the strategy. Measuring the relevant outcomes assesses progress against each of the SPGs. To measure these outcomes data is collected from Government Departments.

The monitoring section of the annual report covering the period 2002–03, deals with measured outcomes against each of the SPGs for that period. It is my intention however to publish a further report in November 2004 that will bring reporting up-to-date since September 2001. The November report (there after published biennially) will comment on measured outcomes up to March 2004, and will deal in more detail with any key trends, which have emerged over the three-year period since September 2001. This will be important in the context of the work that the Department has commenced on the 2005–06 focused assessment of the RDS.

Earlier in the year I committed to a review of the regional housing allocations. A three-month consultation exercise commenced in May 2004. The work is in two stages. Firstly it will involve an assessment of household formation. The Northern Ireland statistics and research agency on behalf of the Department are taking this work forward. This may result in a revised regional housing figure. Consideration will also have to be given to factors such as vacancy, second homes and housing stock loss.

The second stage will include an assessment of the appropriate level of housing allocation for district councils. This will take account of local factors that impact on housing need and any changed circumstances since the original figures were prepared. Given the complexity and sensitivity of projecting housing need, consideration will be given as to how these figures are used; the outcome from the housing review process will be fed into the focused assessment. It is possible that this review of housing allocation figures will point to the need for a specific adjustment of the RDS rather than action by third parties. The focused assessment process will provide the opportunity for necessary publicity and consultation.

The focused assessment will require consideration of all strategic guidance within the RDS using up-to-date data in the context of current Government policy. However, the focused assessment is not a full review. Any adjustments will be considered in the context of the guiding principles and the strategic direction that is set out in the spatial development strategy. The focused assessment process will also include open and participative engagement with stakeholders and consultation as appropriate.

The success of the RDS will be determined by the extent to which its policies and actions are implemented. Implementation is, however, a very complex process involving a wide variety of public and private organisations, businesses, voluntary and community organisations and individuals. Many of the policies can only be implemented through individual Departments and their strategies. Chapter 13 of the RDS sets out the elements of the delivery mechanism.

However the Department has been heavily engaged in developing the participative approach to Implementation by engaging a wide range of stakeholders in the public and private sectors and in the community. During the year 2003–04 the Department has facilitated a series of sub-regional seminars for the North West, the South East, the rural West and the North West. Reports of proceedings in these events will be published as a record of the action agenda proposed for each sub-region. The Department is now engaged with representatives of the organisations attending the seminars to agree a suitable structure for continuing engagement in tracking RDS progress and local strategic priorities.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Enemy Property Payment Scheme (Closure)

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Ms Patricia Hewitt): The UK Government scheme to pay compensation to victims of Nazi persecution whose property was confiscated during the second world war under the trading with the enemy legislation will close on 31 August 2004. Lord Archer of Sandwell, the chairman of the enemy property claims assessment panel has reported to me that the panel is nearing the end of its work and at my request advised on how the scheme should be wound up. After consulting with the various interested parties, he has recommended that 31 August would be an appropriate date to wind up the scheme. He has also recommended that the panel should continue to advise on an ad hoc basis on any claims received after that date. I am pleased to accept all his recommendations, and I have placed a copy of his report in the Libraries of both Houses.

Under wartime legislation, the Government confiscated all assets in British territory owned by residents of enemy countries. The enemy countries included Nazi Germany and its allies, as well as countries occupied by them. After the war, the assets of the occupied countries were released from British Government control but the assets of the belligerent countries were distributed to British creditors whose assets had been confiscated by the enemy countries. An exception was made for victims of Nazi persecution and soon after the war, Nazi victims or their heirs could claim the return of their assets.

In Spring 1997, following public concern that there were still many assets belonging to victims that had not been returned, the British Government published research on the history of the administration of enemy property and placed on the internet at www.enemyproperty.gov.uk a database of the assets seized from residents of belligerent enemy countries. A major problem was that many of the individual files had been destroyed and it was not obvious which of the assets had been returned. However the Government believed that the injustice had to be addressed and asked Lord Archer of Sandwell in June 1998 to advise on the design of a compensation scheme. The Government subsequently accepted Lord Archer's recommendations and the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced in December 1998 a compensation scheme administered by an independent enemy property compensation advisory panel (EPCAP).

EPCAP launched the enemy property payments scheme in April 1999 under the chairmanship of Lord Archer of Sandwell, sitting with two teams of assessors expert in finance and ethnic minority issues. They have considered nearly 1100 applications for compensation and 377 claims have been assessed as qualifying for payment and a total of £16.2 million paid to claimants for assets that were confiscated. Claims have been submitted from all parts of the world and oral hearings were convened for those cases that proved difficult to resolve. A separate adjudicator, Sir Christopher Staughton, was appointed to consider appeals against EPCAP's decisions. He considered 52 appeals, and found in favour of 15.

Some 220,000 assets were confiscated and either sold or returned to the original owners. The only material asset that remains is a gilt bracelet and diamond tie-pin. We know that these belonged to Marck Kellermann, a brush salesman from Bratislava in the former Czechoslovakia. Despite the best efforts of the panel, it remains unclaimed. I am pleased to announce that the Imperial War museum is in discussions with my officials about the safekeeping of the jewellery until such time as Mr. Kellermann's heirs come forward or are found.

I am very grateful to Lord Archer and his team of assessors and to the appeal adjudicator for their work in resolving a long running difficult issue that has previously been neglected by successive governments.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The 2003–04 annual report and accounts for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science was laid before Parliament today.

Copies are available in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accession State Nationals (Transitional Arrangements)

The Minister for Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Desmond Browne): Further to my written statement of 7 July 2004, Official Report, column 36WS, I would like to correct a typographical error which appeared in paragraph 7. The sentence which read: "Accordingly the 20 per cent. increase on last year's UK entry figures for May is to be expected" should in fact have read: "Accordingly the 25 per cent. increase on last year's UK entry figures for May is to be expected."

WORK AND PENSIONS

President of Appeal Tribunals (Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Andrew Smith): I am pleased to publish today the fourth report by the president of appeal tribunals on the standard of decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State in cases which come before appeal tribunals. The main reasons given for appeal tribunals overturning or amending decisions were because new evidence was produced at the hearing, the tribunal took a different view of the same evidence or the oral evidence of the appellant at the hearing shed new light on the existing evidence. The president reiterates his view that an improvement in the attendance of presenting officers at tribunal hearings would provide the Department with immediate feedback on the standards of decision making.

The president has highlighted some areas where improvements have been made since his last report. Some examples of these are an improvement in balancing the evidence used, a reduction in the number of disability living allowance/attendance allowance appeals where the tribunal formed a different view of the evidence used and a significant improvement in cases where the medical report had under-estimated the severity of the disability for incapacity benefit.

The president has suggested that the agencies should be more proactive when an appeal is lodged, to resolve discrepancies, obtain the evidence and seek further information. He considers if time were spent on this fewer appeals would reach the Appeals Service. Another recommendation is that medical reports and decision makers need to explore more thoroughly the impact mental health problems may have on appellants with a disability. I welcome the president's report which provides an independent view of the standard of Secretary of State decision making in cases coming to the appeal tribunal.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library and are available on the internet at www.appeals-service.gov.uk/pres_rep04.pdf.

DEFENCE

Defence Bills Agency (Key Targets)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets have been set for the Chief Executive of the Defence Bills Agency (DBA) for the financial year 2004–05. The targets, which build on the already high standards of service provided by the Agency since its formation in 1996, are as follows:

To pay 99.9 per cent. of correctly presented bills within 11 calendar days of receipt as part of the Department's 30-day payment target.

To raise 99 per cent. of invoices accurately within four days of receipt of a correctly authorised claimable document.

To ensure that the average percentage of overdue collectable debt due to the Department does not exceed 30 per cent. of total collectable debt.

To deliver 99 per cent. of the required accounting and financial information feed to the Departmental Financial Management System portal within one working day.

To make a progressive improvement of at least 1 per cent. in the overall level of customer satisfaction over a baseline of 77 per cent. achieved in 2003–04.

To make a progressive reduction in the unit costs for bills of at least 4 per cent. by March 2005, over the 2003–04 baseline.

Iraq: Referrals

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): Hon. Members will recall the harrowing images broadcast by al-Jazeera television in March last year, which showed the bodies of two British soldiers—Staff Sergeant Simon Cullingworth and Sapper Luke Allsopp. There were indications that one or both of the soldiers may not have died in combat, and as a result we launched a special investigation branch inquiry. Although it would not be appropriate for me to comment in detail on the evidence collected so far, it continues to point to the possibility that one or both soldiers may have been murdered.

Hon. Members may also recall the tragic deaths of six RMP soldiers in al-Majarr al-Kabir last June. Against the backdrop of an extremely challenging environment, an SIB investigation into that incident has also been making progress.

Last year, the coalition provisional authority established the central criminal court of Iraq (CCCI) to exercise jurisdiction over all criminal offences referred to it by the administration in Iraq, which were committed there since 19 March 2003. The CCCI follows "the

investigative model", prevalent in the rest of Europe, whereby an "investigative court" directs and oversees the investigation and, where appropriate, refers the matter to a "trial court".

If these cases are to be pursued through the CCCI, it is important that the concluding phases of the investigations are conducted under the court's direction, to ensure compliance with the rules and procedures of the court. This will have particular impact in respect of the admissibility of evidence. I have therefore agreed that it would be appropriate for the CCCI to be invited to take on these cases. To that end, translations of the cases developed so far have been passed to the CCCI. If the CCCI adopts the cases, we will, of course, support them in any way we can in taking the investigations forward.

The CCCI represents the best prospect of dealing with such cases in an expeditious and fair manner, as Iraqi law has a bar to extraditing its own nationals to a foreign state, including the UK.

Whatever the outcome of these cases, I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of the SIB senior investigating officers and their teams for their hard work.

The families of the eight soldiers are being kept informed of progress with the investigations. Our thoughts and sympathies remain with them.

TREASURY

Statistics Commission (Annual Report)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Ruth Kelly): The Statistics Commission's annual report and accounts, covering the 2003–04 financial year, are being published today, having been laid before both Houses of Parliament. Copies are available in the Vote Office.

HEALTH

State of Health Care Report

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton): The report on the state of healthcare, HC820, by the Healthcare Commission (whose statutory name is the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection) was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Modernising Marriage Law

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Mr. David Lammy): On 10 July 2003 the Government published the consultation paper, "Civil Registration: Delivering Vital Change". This set out our proposals to reform civil registration in England and Wales using powers in the Regulatory Reform Act 2001. It remains our intention—as the Financial Secretary to the Treasury announced on 29 March this year—to bring forward two orders under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001. One, planned for this Session of Parliament, will amend the current legislation on birth and death registration. The second, on marriage law, has been deferred so as to enable us to take into account Parliament's wishes on civil partnership legislation.

Preliminary consideration of the responses to "Civil Registration: Delivering Vital Change" suggests that there is an issue regarding the proposals for marriage on which there should be further consultation. The issue concerns the absence of any proposal to change the legal requirement for marriage ceremonies to be either civil or religious. Policy in this area of marriage law is the responsibility of the Department for Constitutional Affairs. In the coming months and in consultation with others, we will be working with Treasury Ministers and the General Register Office for England and Wales to determine the scope of any revised proposals.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 July 2004

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC (Reorganisation)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): Further to my written statement of 8 January 2004, I can announce that the reorganisation of CDC Group plc (CDC) was completed on 7 July 2004.

The purpose of CDC is to maximise the creation and growth of viable businesses in poorer developing countries, through responsible investment and mobilising private finance. The objective of the reorganisation is to enhance CDC's capacity to fulfil its purpose, in particular the mobilisation of private and other third-party capital for investment in the poorer developing countries. This will contribute to the achievement of the millennium development goals, as explained in DFID's submissions to the International Development Committee (HC 194 of Session 2002–03).

CDC is now an investment company, responsible for holding the cash and other assets of the former CDC and its subsidiaries, and contracting for its capital to be invested in accordance with the investment policy. As part of the reorganisation, DFID has restructured CDC's capital, replacing CDC's debts to DFID with shareholder capital, using powers in the CDC Act 1999.

The CDC investment policy has been improved in several ways. The previous aim of making 50 per cent. of new investments in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia has been placed on the same mandatory five-year rolling basis as the requirement to make 70 per cent. of new investments in poorer developing countries (those with an annual per capita gross national income below $1,750). CDC will continue to observe, and set an example in, responsible ethical, environmental and social business principles.

A new independent management company called Actis Capital LLP (Actis) has been formed as a limited liability partnership between its management and staff and the Government. The purpose of Actis is to manage investments so as to promote the creation and growth of viable businesses in poorer developing countries, to mobilise private and other third-party investment, and to add value to the businesses in which investments are made by promoting responsible business principles and providing management advice. This purpose cannot be changed without my agreement. Actis will also follow best practice in corporate governance and business ethics, as set out in its business principles.

Actis is controlled and managed by its management and staff, who have 60 per cent. of the voting rights. DFID has 40 per cent. of the voting rights, and under claw-back arrangements will for the next 10 years receive 80 per cent. of the profits from Actis. DFID also has certain minority shareholder rights and protections set out in the members' agreement. These include the right to veto appointments of the chairman of the Actis supervisory board and the non-executive members of the supervisory board business principles committee, and the right to veto a sale of Actis.

CDC and Actis have entered into a five-year contract (the umbrella agreement) under which Actis will manage CDC's existing investments. The umbrella agreement provides for CDC to make commitments to certain funds to be managed by Actis for Africa, south Asia, Power, China and Malaysia. Investments in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be managed by a separate management company, Aureos, which will be a joint venture between Actis, the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund) and Aureos's staff. CDC will have some reserved capital, initially £52.4 million, which can be committed to non-Actis funds, to develop its third party fund management capabilities and to stimulate activity, competition and fund management skills in private equity in the poorer developing countries. The umbrella agreement also sets out the minimum service levels to be provided by Actis, incentive arrangements, and reporting requirements.

The sale of Actis and the umbrella agreement were negotiated on market-based, commercial terms to achieve value for money. As is common in private sector corporate demergers and Government privatisations, no formal managerial competition was held, to avoid disruption to CDC's business. After the period of the umbrella agreement, CDC will award fund management contracts on a competitive basis.

The details of the reorganisation were finalised by an independent committee of the CDC Board, making recommendations to me as shareholder. These recommendations included proposals relating to the market value of Actis and the market value of the interests in Actis to be sold to its management and staff. The independent committee also reviewed the terms of the umbrella agreement and the incentive arrangements for Actis. Remuneration in CDC remains within public sector pay and subject to approval by the Government. I am grateful to the independent committee and the CDC Board as a whole for their care and attention throughout the reorganisation process. In future, DFID will also be advised and assisted in the performance of its shareholder functions by the new shareholder executive.

I am placing copies of the relevant documents, including the Actis members' agreement and the umbrella agreement (to which the new investment policy is annexed) in the Library of the House, and I am sending copies of these documents to the chairman of the International Development Select Committee.

TRANSPORT

Airport Master Plans Guidance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tony McNulty): The Department is today publishing guidance for airport operators on the preparation of master plans. The White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" indicated that we will expect airport operators to produce master plans setting out

their proposals for future development. The guidance contains suggestions for the process of preparing master plans and the range of issues which they might address.

The guidance has been produced jointly with the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department for Regional Development for Northern Ireland, and will be relevant to airports throughout the United Kingdom. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and the guidance is also available on the Department for Transport's website: www.dft.gov.uk

TREASURY

Devolved Administrations (Funding Rules)

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Paul Boateng): Copies of the updated statement of funding policy, which sets out the funding arrangements for the devolved administrations, have today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iraq (Private Military and Security Companies)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Jack Straw): Private military and security companies are entitled to conduct their business within the law. They should be given access to the support that Government Departments provide to British citizens and companies on the same basis as other companies. However, private military and security companies are also in a business that can in certain conditions have a direct and sensitive impact on international relations.

Following the Legg report into the Sandline affair in 1998 the FCO issued advice to all officials on contacts with private military and security companies (PMCs/PSCs). This required officials to request permission for contacts with PMCs/PSCs whenever possible and for the FCO to consider the impact of those contacts before granting that permission.

These guidelines have been reissued twice since. I have recently approved a revised set of guidelines to deal specifically with the situation in Iraq, where a large number of private contractors are employed in essential security work.

One of the contractors concerned is Aegis Defence Services Limited, whose chairman and chief executive officer is one of the individuals named in the Legg report. The contract in question was awarded by the United States Government. Her Majesty's Government is not a party to the contract, nor was it involved in any way in its negotiation.

The guidelines recognise that contact with the private security companies that protect our staff in Iraq is inevitable and that liaison with companies providing security elsewhere is an essential operational requirement. In these circumstances, permission will not be required. However all new contacts with PMCs/PSCs seeking commercial advice will still require permission and in all circumstances officials are required to report any activity that they suspect to be illegal or unethical to the FCO.

The Ministry of Defence is issuing similar guidelines to its personnel in Iraq.

I have placed copies of the general guidance and of the Iraq-specific guidelines in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 July 2004

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

School Funding 2005–06

The Minister for School Standards (Mr. David Miliband): This statement relates to school funding in 2005–06.

In my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's statement to the House on 29 October 2003 he set out a package of measures designed to restore confidence in the school funding system, and deliver stability in school budgets and predictability for head teachers and governors. These included a minimum increase in every school's budget; additional resources to help every LEA to support schools with additional pressures; the reversal of planned cuts in the standards fund; and targeted transitional support to help all schools to achieve balanced budgets. He explained that these arrangements would apply for the two years 2004–05 and 2005–06; but that the precise level at which the various elements would be set would be updated for 2005–06.

Evidence from LEAs' budget statements suggests that the measures put in place this year have been successful in restoring stability and predictability. In particular:

the vast majority of authorities have passported the increase in their schools formula spending share to schools in full;

overall, over two thirds of schools received a funding increase above the level of the minimum guarantee. The remaining third received a funding increase in line with the minimum guarantee;

there is no significant difference in the number of schools receiving the guarantee by type of school (primary, secondary, special) or by size of school;

the guarantee has been helpful in giving schools earlier information about the minimum level of their budget to aid planning and to provide stability and predictability; and

the limit on central spend by LEAs has helped maximise schools' own budgets, while allowing for special circumstances in some authorities.

We now need to look ahead to 2005–06. One of the things that authorities and schools have been telling us over the last year is that they would welcome earlier announcements from central government in order to enable them to plan ahead effectively. I am pleased therefore to be able to make this announcement over three months earlier than the equivalent announcement last year.

As in 2004–05, our starting point has been an analysis of the cost pressures that will face schools in 2005–06. My officials have discussed these cost pressures—including increases in teachers' pay and support staff pay and pensions—in detail with local government representatives and the head teacher associations. Excluding the costs of workforce reform, to which I will return, our best estimate is that cost pressures on the average school in 2005–06 will be in the range from 3.8 per cent. to 4 per cent. There remain some uncertainties, in particular around the cost of local government pensions, which will impact unevenly on authorities.

We have also considered the costs of the implementation of the national agreement on workforce reform. Earlier in the year, with the support of our partners, we undertook a survey of schools in six LEAs to get a better understanding of their starting points, how they plan to deliver the workforce reforms and to what extent this can be achieved through the redeployment of existing resources. I am grateful to all those LEAs and schools for their help.

This work confirms that the pressures of workforce reform, and in particular guaranteed time for planning, preparation and assessment, will impact mainly on primary and nursery schools in 2005–06. The precise cost for individual schools will, of course, depend on the strategies chosen to implement the reforms and the amount of time that needs to be created, but we expect the average cost pressure to be between 0.8 and 1 per cent. for primary and nursery schools. The survey also indicates that most secondary and special schools will be able to implement the September 2005 contractual changes from their existing resources. We recognise that some secondary and special schools may incur additional costs, and will undertake further work with our partners during the autumn term to examine the nature and extent of these costs, including in particular the transfer of exam invigilation from teachers. It will be for schools and LEAs to take forward the results of this work through workforce remodelling and through the headroom provided under the arrangements I am announcing today.

Of course, remodelling is not just about extra funding. We will continue to work with our partners, the national remodelling team and the network of LEA remodelling advisers and consultant leaders to offer guidance and support for all schools in implementing workforce reform. In particular, we will examine the support required by schools to manage effectively the transfer of exam invigilation from teachers from September 2005.

Our priority for 2004–05 and 2005–06 has been stability in school budgets, and in 2005–06 all schools will therefore continue to have a guaranteed minimum funding increase which is at least equal to the average cost pressures which schools are likely to face. However, I also believe that it is important to retain flexibility for LEAs to respond to local circumstances by directing additional resources where they are most needed, especially since the costs of workforce reform will vary significantly between schools depending on their starting point.

Against that background, I have decided that in 2005–06 the minimum guarantee should again be set at 4 per cent. for secondary schools. As in 2004–05, this means that pupil-led elements of schools' budgets will increase by 4 per cent. per pupil, and fixed elements by 4 per cent. in cash. A secondary school whose pupil numbers stay the same between 2004–05 and 2005–06

will therefore be guaranteed at least a 4 per cent. per pupil increase in its overall budget next year, on top of a minimum increase of 4 per cent. this year. Secondary schools whose pupil numbers decline will receive an increase of more than 4 per cent. per pupil, to help cover their fixed costs. And those whose pupil numbers rise will receive at least a 4 per cent. increase in their cash budgets, and an overall per pupil increase of at least 3.9 per cent.

For primary schools, I have decided that the minimum guarantee should be set higher at 5 per cent.—to take account of the additional costs which these schools face in implementing workforce reform. Primary schools whose pupil numbers remain unchanged will therefore receive at least a 5 per cent. per pupil increase, and those with declining numbers will receive more than 5 per cent. Those with rising rolls will receive at least a 5 per cent. cash increase in their budgets, and an overall per pupil increase of at least 4.9 per cent. As with 2004–05, special arrangements will apply to schools with 75 pupils or fewer.

The available evidence suggests that most special schools will be able to implement the national agreement on workforce reform at no net cost, though as I have mentioned we will do more work on this with our partners during the autumn term. Where costs arise they are likely to be very uneven across schools, and it is therefore more appropriate to deal with them by targeting LEA resources rather than through a higher minimum guarantee. The guarantee for special schools will therefore be set at 4 per cent. for 2005–06. The special arrangements that applied to the calculation of the guarantee for special schools will continue in 2005–06.

Nursery schools received delegated budgets for the first time in 2004–2005 and therefore no guarantee applied to them this year. We have agreed with our partners that the cost pressures on nursery schools are likely to be similar to those on primary schools in 2005–06 and therefore the guarantee will be set at 5 per cent. for them. LEAs will be able to choose, in consultation with nursery schools, whether to operate the standard, pupil-led, form of the guarantee for nursery schools or a place-led version like that for special schools, depending on how their nursery schools are currently funded.

All of these figures are the minimum increase in funding which schools of each type will receive in 2005–06. As with 2004–05, we expect the majority of schools to receive an increase that is higher than the minimum guarantee.

Our work with LEAs on the cost of workforce reform also suggested that the costs of implementing the national agreement are likely to be highest for very small schools—i.e. those with under 100 pupils. The main reason for this is that it can be more difficult for a very small school to secure small proportions of support staff time in order to release teachers for planning, preparation and assessment time. In urban areas schools can collaborate to resolve these difficulties, but that can be harder to do in rural areas where travelling distances are greater. Subject to consultation, I therefore propose to apply a larger increase to the sparsity unit cost in the primary formula within the schools formula spending share, to direct more resources to authorities with a high proportion of schools in this situation. I am also doubling the announced increase in the school standards grant band for schools with under 100 pupils, to ensure that all small schools have some extra help with the costs of workforce reform.

In October the Secretary of State promised that the income schools receive from the school standards grant and the standards fund would be uprated in line with the minimum guarantee in both 2004–05 and 2005–06, and the Learning and Skills Council promised to do the same for school sixth form provision. I can confirm today that:

- standards fund support for schools will be increased by 4 per cent. in 2005–06. Detailed allocations will be announced in the autumn;
- schools will be entitled to either a 4 per cent. per pupil increase in their school standards grant or their announced SSG band for 2005–06, whichever is higher; and
- the Learning and Skills Council will increase all its funding rates for school sixth forms by 4 per cent. in 2005–06.

Of course the minimum guarantee must be backed by adequate resources for LEAs. Next year we expect the average increase in the schools formula spending share to be around 7 per cent. per pupil and I intend to set the minimum increase which any authority can receive at 5.5 per cent. per pupil. This is a minimum increase—the increase for most authorities will be higher. Setting the minimum increase at this level will again ensure that all authorities have some headroom after implementing the guarantee, to allow the local funding formula to operate or to direct additional resources where they are most needed. The provisional increase for each authority will be announced at the time of the local government settlement in the autumn.

Authorities where teachers are on the outer London teachers' pay scale face particular pressures in 2005–06 because the value of that scale will increase by a higher amount than the national average increase in teachers' pay as a result of the award for September 2005 following recommendations by the School Teachers' Review Body. The minimum increase in the schools formula spending share will therefore be set at 5.8 per cent. for these authorities. Again, increases for individual authorities will be announced in the autumn.

Next year the Government will again expect each authority to passport in full its SPSS increase into a matching increase in its schools budget, unless there are wholly exceptional circumstances.

As in 2004–05, we also expect LEA spending on their central education budgets to rise no faster than spending on schools next year. LEAs will again be able to seek an exemption where exceptional local circumstances arise—23 such exemptions were agreed this year. The view of the schools forum will again be important when any applications for exemptions are being considered.

In October the Secretary of State announced a package of transitional support that would be available to authorities to help schools experiencing particular financial difficulties to bring their budgets back into balance. The main element of that package was a

targeted grant, totalling £120m nationally, which went to the 51 authorities that would otherwise have had the lowest increases in revenue support for education between 2002–03 and 2004–05. The Secretary of State indicated in his October statement that around half this amount would be available to the same authorities in 2005–06.

I can now confirm that the same 51 authorities will be eligible for exactly half of this year's allocation in 2005–06, subject to broadly the same conditions that applied this year. In particular, eligible authorities will need to update the transitional support plans which were agreed with my Department earlier this year, to show how they will use the additional funds to target schools in the greatest difficulty and bring their budgets back into balance. I am placing a list of transitional grant allocations in the Library. No further transitional grant will be available from 2006–07.

This year we also amended the school funding regulations to give all local authorities the flexibility to target their own resources outside their school funding formula to support schools in financial difficulty. A number of authorities have made use of this flexibility in 2004–05 and we propose to continue it in 2005–06.

Finally, this year my Department, working with the national college for school leadership, KPMG and the head teacher associations, set up a programme of financial management training and support to help head teachers and governors to manage their budgets more effectively. This programme—which has focused in the first year on schools in authorities in receipt of transitional grant—has been very successful and received very positive feedback.

I am pleased to say that the programme will continue into the coming academic year, and will be expanded to cover schools across the country. Workshops will be available for up to 10,000 schools, and will be based on a menu of options from which LEAs and schools can draw. In particular, workshops will be available to support schools with the financial management aspects of workforce reform, and of falling rolls. Follow-up consultancy will be available for schools that need additional support over and above the workshops, and financial management master classes will be held for LEA staff. The financial management in schools website will also be maintained and enhanced.

The decisions I have outlined today will continue the successful arrangements which have been introduced this year and ensure that the stability and predictability that has been restored to school funding will continue in 2005–06. However, I have always been clear that these arrangements were a short-term measure. The dedicated schools grant that the Government have announced for 2006–07 and beyond, together with guaranteed three-year budgets for schools, will give head teachers and governors unprecedented financial security and confidence, and the ability to plan for the future. The arrangements for 2005–06 that I have announced today will provide an effective bridge to those longer-term arrangements.

DEFENCE

National Employers Advisory Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Ivor Caplin): I am pleased to inform the House that yesterday evening I signed the National Employers Advisory Board memorandum of understanding with The Lord Glenarthur DL, chairman of the National Employers Advisory Board.

The memorandum of understanding sets out the responsibilities and requirements of members of the National Employer Advisory Board. It underlines the seriousness with which the Ministry of Defence treats employers and their support for reservists. Lord Glenarthur and the National Employers Advisory Board play a central role in ensuring that the Government is accurately informed about employers' attitudes and concerns.

Adult Learning Inspectorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Ivor Caplin): I am pleased to inform the House that I have signed a memorandum of understanding with the adult learning inspectorate on behalf of the MOD. This MOU provides for the introduction of an agreed annual rolling programme of independent inspection, re-inspection and oversight of defence training and education, including the welfare and duty of care provided within the training environment. The MOD is one of the largest single providers of training and education, particularly for those in the 16 plus age range, in the United Kingdom. MOD offers training for over 300 specialist career paths, and its educational development programmes range from basic skills and vocational qualifications to post-graduate level.

In signing this, the MOD seeks to achieve:

> The implementation of quality assurance arrangements which guarantee high standards, meet MOD requirements, add value to the expenditure of public money and at least match the quality of comparable civilian learning programmes.
>
> The ability to have access to the national learning community to share good practice and benchmark defence training and education.
>
> The ability to maintain and update professional skills through continuous professional development activity in order to support the lifelong learning agenda and skills development in the MOD.

The MOD and ALI will work together to develop appropriate working arrangements to facilitate a suitable training and inspection programme that will complement existing internal quality assurance and improvement procedures of the armed services implemented through the defence systems approach to training quality standard (DSAT QS), a British Standards Institute accredited private standard.

This MOU marks an important milestone in helping to ensure that the MOD's highly regarded training and educational standards continue to improve and to ensure that its service and civilian personnel are

provided the best opportunities to develop their skills in order to carry out their demanding roles in the face of the challenges of the 21st century.

A full copy of the MOU is being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Local Government Spending Review 2004

The Minister for Local and Regional Government (Mr. Nick Raynsford): The announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer provides continued investment in vital local services and builds on the real terms increases in funding which we have been able to provide authorities since taking office. The spending plans provide the framework under which we will develop the long-term strategy for local government so that authorities become stronger, more confident and better performing.

The plans provide for an additional £7.2 billion in general grant for local government programmes by 2007–08 compared to 2004–05, an annual average growth rate of 2.7 per cent. in real terms. It also provides for annual average real terms increases of 4.8 per cent. in the already record levels of local authority investment through capital support and PFI over the three years to 2007–08. We are also looking to local authorities to generate efficiency savings and productivity improvements totalling £6.45 billion by 2007–08 which will release additional resources to the front line. We are committed across Government to working with local authorities to help them achieve these savings and the Deputy Prime Minister has appointed Barry Quirk, the chief executive of Lewisham, to work with local government, Government Departments and other partners as part of this process. In addition Tim Byles, procurement champion and chief executive of Norfolk county council will continue to work with the regional centres of excellence, which will receive additional funding as a result of yesterday's announcement.

The Chancellor's announcement will ensure that councils can continue to improve local services over the next few years while avoiding unsustainable increases in council tax.

I am pleased to say that the Government will continue to allocate additional resources for the most disadvantaged areas through the neighbourhood renewal fund, which will be extended throughout the spending review period at the enhanced level of £525 million a year which has already been provided for 2005–06. The NRF will continue as a targeted, non-ring fenced grant.

The plans provides a package of financial reforms for authorities. We will also be offering local authorities greater certainty of funding through the development of three-year settlements, and will be working closely with authorities to address the issues which need to be resolved. The Government will embark on a work programme with the LGA, CIPFA and the Audit Commission to develop proposals for a system that would mean that depreciation of assets would in time hit the bottom line in local authorities' accounts, and that would link Government support for capital for existing assets to the associated charges. We will also be consulting shortly on revisions to the system for delivering PFI support, with the aim of introducing it for 2005–06. This will assume a constant level of grant over the life of the contract, funded at a comparable level to that for other funding.

The spending review announces proposals to further strengthen the links between central and local government through a second round of local public service agreements and setting up a new safer and stronger communities fund which will bring together existing funds from Home Office and ODPM. The fund will be administered in a new way to achieve outcomes agreed between local authorities and their partners and central government.

Going further, the review also announces plans to launch nine pilot local area agreements in 2005–06 with a view to national rollout from 2006–07. Local area agreements are a radical new approach based on outcomes agreed between central and local government and their partners across a range of their functions. They will simplify funding streams, allow more flexible local solutions for local problems and help join up public services at local level.

The spending plans have been informed by discussion with local government as we looked to consider pressures and the scope for efficiency savings. It provides the funding for increased activity on local authority resilience capacity where councils will see a doubling of provision for emergency planning in 2005–06 and beyond when the civil defence grant rolls into general grant reflecting the critical role that local authorities play in preparing for emergencies. Under the plans the Government are also aiming to continue the modernisation of the fire and rescue service so that, by 2010, an extra 900 lives can have been saved and the number of deliberate fires reduced by almost 90,000. An additional £20 million by 2007–08 for the proposed waste performance reward grant will also help deliver a continuing increase in the proportion of household waste recycled. The Chancellor's announcement sustains and builds on existing progress under the sustainable communities plan. The spending plans present a real opportunity for local government to improve local services through increased investment from Government and through the generation of further efficiency savings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Forest Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Ian Pearson): Forest Service is an Executive agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland. It acts on behalf of the Department for the promotion of the interests of forestry in Northern Ireland, the development of afforestation, the production and

supply of timber, and the maintenance of adequate reserves of growing trees. Its functions include the delivery of social, recreational and environmental benefits for the public at large.

I have set the following key targets for the agency for the 2004–05 business year:

To publish a strategy for the delivery of forest policy by December 2004.

To establish 500 hectares of new plantations.

To retain certification under the UK woodland assurance standard.

To replant 750 hectares of land following harvesting.

To produce 400,000m^3 of timber for sale to the wood processing sector.

To achieve 400,000 paying visitors to forests.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Commission for Racial Equality

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. David Blunkett): The Commission for Racial Equality's annual report 2003 is published today.

Copies will be available in the Library of the House. Copies will also be sent to the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales.

United Kingdom Passport Service

The Minister for Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Desmond Browne): The United Kingdom Passport Service annual report and accounts 2003–04 has been published today and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

The Solicitor-General (Ms Harriet Harman): The annual report of HM Crown Prosecution Service inspectorate has today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health and Safety Commission

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Andrew Smith): I am pleased to announce the reappointment of Bill Callaghan as chair of the Health and Safety Commission. Bill has held this position since October 1999 and has led the Commission through an important period of change, during which the new strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond was developed and launched.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 July 2004

NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Paul Murphy): Under s73(2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, I have appointed four new commissioners to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. They are Anthony Carlin, Una Gillespie, Thomas McGrath and Paul Yam.

The appointments take effect from 1 August 2004 and last for three years.

Laganside Corporation Annual Report

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. John Spellar): The annual report and accounts of the Laganside Corporation (NIA 42/03) for the year ended 31 March 2004 incorporating the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General will be laid before the NI Assembly on Wednesday 14 July 2004.

Copies of the NI Assembly paper have been placed in the House of Commons Library at Westminster and in the NI Assembly at Stormont.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Draft Animal Welfare Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I am pleased to announce today the publication of the draft Animal Welfare Bill.

The draft Bill seeks to consolidate and modernise over 20 pieces of animal welfare legislation relating to farmed and non-farmed animals, some of which date back to 1911. It follows a public consultation held in 2002, and meetings with over 100 welfare organisations, professional veterinary associations and industry groups.

The Bill introduces into our law a clear definition of cruelty against an animal and provides the courts, the police and government law enforcement agencies with the powers that are needed to deal effectively with people who ill-treat or neglect animals in their care. The Bill also extends a duty to promote animal welfare—currently present in farmed animal legislation—to all animal keepers. This will mean that all domestic or captive animals must be cared for in accordance with good animal husbandry practices and the best available scientific knowledge concerning welfare needs This is a major improvement to current welfare laws which are often based on the view that good welfare is about taking action after an animal has suffered.

The Bill will also provide powers to introduce secondary legislation and codes of practice to protect the welfare of non-farmed animals kept by man. This enabling power is already available for farmed animals and our aim is to ensure that in future all domestic and captive animals will be protected by legislation that can be easily revised to take account of changing welfare needs and increased scientific knowledge.

Copies are also available on The Stationery Office website at http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm62/6252/6252.htm

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Today, I am pleased to announce that I have set the following performance targets for 2004–05 for the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

Financial

Achieve full cost recovery.

Efficiency

Establish an efficiency plan to enable breakeven by 2005–06. This includes:

Achieve £1 million procurement savings.

Keep the increase in full economic cost for the test portfolio below the Treasury inflator.

Maintain the ratio of overheads against turnover to 03–04 level.

Identify options for rationalisation and their implications.

Service delivery

Meet 85 per cent. ROAME milestones.

Set a baseline for deliverables for surveillance contracts.

Improve the customer satisfaction score from last year and implement actions plans as necessary.

Quality

Implement VLA's quality strategy. This includes:

Maintaining current third party accreditations.

Achieve compliance with Defra's Joint Code of Practice for Research by July 2004.

Achieve ISO 14001 compliance at the Weybridge main site.

Achieve UKAS 17025 group accreditation for mammalian influenza work.

Safety

Implement the VLA safety plan to timescales indicated.

TREASURY

Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and Georgia)

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): A double taxation agreement with Georgia was signed on 13 July 2004. After signature, the text of the agreement was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on the Inland Revenue's website. The text of the agreement will be scheduled to a draft order in council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Draft Statutory Guidance (Director of Fair Access to Higher Education)

The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Alan Johnson): I have today placed in the Library of the House copies of the new draft letter of statutory guidance from the Secretary of State to the director of fair access (commonly known as the Office for Fair Access or OFFA).

On 23 February 2004 the Secretary of State published the draft regulations and guidance on OFFA as the Higher Education Bill made its way to Committee stage in the House of Commons.

Since that time the Bill has received Royal Assent and some important amendments have been made. Now that the Bill has become an Act and we have advertised for the post of the director of fair access, the Secretary of State has issued a new draft letter of statutory guidance to the new director. New draft regulations were published on 7 July and copies laid in the Library of the House.

We are determined to ensure that access to higher education is broadened, not narrowed. That is why the new director of fair access will have such an important role. Now that we have advertised for the post of director it is important to remind all those interested of the function, powers and responsibilities. OFFA will be necessary, focused, non-bureaucratic, powerful, independent, open and nothing to do with admissions.

The new director will be in post by the autumn and this letter suggests how he/she might approach the approval and monitoring of institutions' access agreements. The judgments that the director will exercise in ensuring fair access will have far-reaching consequences. And his/her freedom to challenge institutions where necessary will be an important safeguard and public reassurance.

The new draft letter reflects changes made to the Bill. The key changes are:

Admissions and academic freedom

The HE Act now makes crystal clear, on the face of the Bill, that OFFA cannot infringe on academic freedom, ensuring OFFA is concentrated single-mindedly on widening access.

Good practice

A Government amendment in both Houses.

Part-time education and OFFA

A Government amendment responded to concern expressed in both Houses about the position of part-time students. It makes plain that while OFFA's prime focus is on the regulation of full time fees its remit includes safeguarding and promoting access to both full-time and part-time study. The amendment sends a clear signal in primary legislation about the importance the Government attach to part-time study.

Reasonableness and sanctions

It is a general principle of law that a body such as OFFA has to act reasonably. This amendment, prevents sanctions being imposed if an institution has done all it possibly can to comply with its access agreement. It safeguards institutions from being penalised for problems outside their control. Failure to meet their own milestones is not of itself grounds for any sanction. But where progress is less than expected, OFFA will take into account whether any underlying causes have been identified and addressed by the institution when considering renewal.

Review

This amendment allows institutions to seek a review of decisions made by OFFA to an independent person or panel. The panel will only be able to ask OFFA to look again at a decision, for instance in the light of new information. This is a sensible position for a new regulator, and ensures a fair deal for institutions as well as students.

Gap Years

Paragraph 4.2 of the letter reminds institutions that they should not charge higher fees to students who took a gap year and deferred their entry from the 2005–06 academic year to 2006–07.

The key principles set out in the letter of guidance are that OFFA should be well focused, non-bureaucratic and open to views from within the sector.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund/Social Fund Commissioner (Annual Reports)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Andrew Smith): My annual report on the social fund for 2003–04 (Cm 6235) was published today and has been laid before Parliament.

The report records that total gross expenditure in 2003–04, excluding winter fuel payments, was £857.7 million. This included more than 256,000 non-repayable grants and more than 2,300,000 interest free loans together worth £686.6 million, and funeral and cold weather payments totalling £50.7 million. In addition, around 238,000 Sure Start maternity grants worth £120.4 million were made, and 8 million households benefited from a winter fuel payment at a cost of around £1.9 billion.

The social fund commissioner's report has also been published today and placed in the Library.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Rent Restructuring Review

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill): The Government's policy for ensuring that social rents in England are fair, affordable and less confusing for tenants was set out in the December 2000 policy statement "The Way Forward for Housing".

The proposals outlined in that policy document were refined and consulted upon throughout 2001, leading to the introduction of the policy on rent restructuring for social rents, to run for 10 years from April 2002. At the time of implementation we indicated that there would be a review of the way the policy is operating during the third year to ensure that policy objectives are on track.

A review of the first three years of the policy implementation has recently been completed, with a steering group membership comprised of representatives from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department of Health, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, local authority associations, the Housing Corporation and the National Housing Federation. The remit of the review has been to gather evidence, data and intelligence on the effects of the policy, and examine specific issues where fine-tuning adjustments to our approach would make sense for tenants and landlords.

Evidence from the review shows that the policy is generally working well for both landlords and tenants. The review therefore recommends no significant changes to the existing policy. However, it does recommend three refinements:

changing the formula for larger properties so that there is a greater difference between the rents of various sizes of property;

restructuring local authority rents on the same basis as housing association rents;

ensuring that where local authority rents are currently higher than the formula, they drop to meet it by 2011–12 at the latest.

The results of this review have now been brought together in a consultation paper, copies of which are being made available in the Libraries of both Houses, and will be available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website www.odpm.gov.uk/.

Interested parties have until 30 September to comment on the proposals.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 July 2004

TRANSPORT

Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tony McNulty): We have issued today a consultation letter about the definition of a private hire vehicle in London in the Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998 (the 1998 Act). During our first term, we were pleased to support this important safety measure to regulate London's minicabs and bring them into line with the rest of the country. However, we understand that a loophole in the definition is allowing unscrupulous operators to use unlicensed drivers and vehicles within the law by claiming that the work undertaken is dedicated to groups or specific organisations rather than to the public at large. I am clear that this was not the intention of Parliament when the Bill was passed and that such hirings should be within the framework of the 1998 Act. Therefore, the purpose of the consultation letter is to seek views on a proposal to amend the definition to exclude the phrase "to the public" at the first suitable opportunity and thereby close the loophole. The consultation letter, which is available on the Department for Transport website, is being sent to key private hire and taxi stakeholders, but anyone with an interest is invited to comment. Copies of the consultation letter have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

The Solicitor-General (Ms Harriet Harman): The annual report of the Crown Prosecution Service has today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Shipman Inquiry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Caroline Flint): The Fourth Report of the Shipman inquiry, "The regulation of, controlled drugs in the community", Cm 6249, was published today, and copies have been placed in the Library. This follows the publication of reports on the extent of Harold Shipman's activities, on the 1998 investigation by the Greater Manchester police, and on death certification and the coroner system. The inquiry's final report on monitoring of medical practitioners, disciplinary systems, whistleblowing and complaints is now expected to be published later this year.

The Government would again like to thank Dame Janet Smith for the meticulous care which has gone into the preparation of this report; for the sensitivity with which she has listened to the views of health care and law enforcement professionals at the inquiry's seminars; and for the skilful balance she has struck between the need to safeguard the legitimate use of controlled drugs for patient care and the need to protect the public from their misuse. We would also like to reiterate our sympathy to the relatives and friends of Shipman's victims.

Dame Janet's report makes three major groups of recommendations. First, she advocates setting up an integrated and multidisciplinary inspectorate to monitor and audit the prescription, storage, distribution and disposal of controlled drugs. Secondly, the report recommends a number of restrictions on the prescribing of controlled drugs which would discourage or prevent health professionals from prescribing in circumstances in which it could be considered to be unsafe or unwise for them to do so—prescribing for their own use or for that of their immediate families, prescribing outside the requirements of their normal clinical practice, prescribing by professionals convicted of controlled drugs offences. Thirdly, the report proposes a series of measures to tighten the handling and safekeeping of controlled drugs along each part of the supply chain from the supplier to the patient's home, and to provide a complete "audit trail" to account for the movement of controlled drugs at each stage, both in the national health service and in the private sector.

These are very significant recommendations with fundamental implications for the use of controlled drugs in the NHS and elsewhere. We will need to study them carefully and in consultation with existing inspectorates, patients, NHS and police organisations and the healthcare professions. In particular, we will be seeking the views of the advisory council on the misuse of drugs (ACMD), which has already begun some valuable preparatory work on possible improvements to the present system and on the legislative changes that would be required. And we will need to wait for the recommendations in the inquiry's fifth report, on the general monitoring of general medical practitioners (GPs) and other health professionals, before we can reach final decisions on those issues on which there is a potential overlap between the two reports.

In the meanwhile there is much valuable and important work already in hand. In addition to the work of the ACMD, the national prescribing centre has published "preview" guidance for NHS organisations and professionals summarising the legal requirements and best professional practice in the handling of controlled drugs. This work will be updated to take account of the inquiry's recommendations and issued as soon as possible. Finally, the NHS national programme for information technology will make a valuable contribution towards some of the additional safeguards

proposed in the report, and we will need to consider carefully what can be delivered within the timescales of the programme.

In welcoming the inquiry's second and third reports, my right hon. Friends the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health emphasised the need to learn lessons from the mistakes of the past. Dame Janet's report acknowledges that no system for the regulation of controlled drugs can offer complete security against abuse from minds as devious as Shipman's, while allowing for their legitimate use by health professionals to ease suffering. But her report also makes it clear that much more could be done to deter and detect improper use. We accept this conclusion. In acting on her report we are determined to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to provide the robust safeguards which are needed and which the public can rightly expect.

Prison Service and National Probation Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Paul Goggins): The Prison Service and the probation service have today published their annual reports, reporting their performance in 2003–04. Copies have been placed in the Library. The Prison Service report includes the service's accounts for 2003–04. The financial statement for the national probation service will be published in early 2005.

Because contracted prisons are now managed by the office for contracted prisons rather than the Prison Service details of their performance are not included in the service's annual report. The tables below therefore report on the performance of all prisons in England and Wales (comprising those managed by the Prison Service and those managed by the office for contracted prisons), and the performance of the contracted estate

A full breakdown of the performance of both public and contracted prison establishments in relation to the applicable key performance indicators (KPIs) will be provided at a later date.

Performance by public and contracted prisons in England and Wales in 2003–04

KPI		*Annual Target*	*Outturn*
Category A Escapes		0	0
Total Escapes from Prisons and Prison Escorts		<0.05%	0.022%
Escapes from Contracted Escorts		1:20,000	1:39,377
Employment, Training and Education (ETE)		31,500	35,530
Education Awards	Entry	7,749	13,500
	Level 1	14,462	18,911
	Level 2	14,420	14,233
	Key Work Skills	54,880	109,237
Offender Behaviour Programmes (Post IQR)		8,900	9,638
Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (Post IQR)		1,240	1,091
Timely Arrival at Court		81%	82%
Mandatory Drugs Tests		<10%	12.5%
Self-inflicted Deaths		<112.8 per 100,000	93 (= 126.2)
Purposeful Activity		24	23.4
Serious Assault		1.2%	1.56% (1,153)

Performance by contracted prisons in England and Wales in 2003–04

KPI		*Annual Target*	*Outturn*
Category A Escapes		0	0
Total Escapes from Prisons and Prison Escorts		<0.05%	0.01%
Employment, Training and Education (ETE)		2,456	2,938
Education Awards	Entry	575	971
	Level 1	802	1,047
	Level 2	772	895
	Key Work Skills	2,208	5,654
Offender Behaviour Programmes (Post IQR)		456	469
Sex Offender Treatment Programmes (Post IQR)		46	45
Mandatory Drugs Tests		<10%	14.0%
Self-inflicted Deaths		<112.8 per 100,000	29.7 per 100,000
Purposeful Activity		28	26.6
Serious Assault		1.0%	1.78%

The contracted sector does not manage contracted escorts and so the Prison Service targets on escapes from contracted escorts and timely arrival at court do not apply to it. The Prison Service targets on staff sickness and ethnic minority staffing are not applicable to the contracted estate. A target was not set for doubling in the contracted estate in 2003–04 and comparable data is not available—a new target on overcrowded accommodation has been set for both public and contracted prisons in 2004–05.

Terrorism Act 2000

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. David Blunkett): Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation in 2002 and 2003 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which I laid before the House on 26 April 2004.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for his detailed report and I have considered his recommendations fully. Following consultation within my department and with other relevant departments and agencies I am pleased to place my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations in the House Library today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Wilton Park

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Chris Mullin): Wilton Park is an academically independent executive agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its annual report and accounts for 2003–04 were published today and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Highlights of the last year include:

More conferences organised than ever before—49, including for the first time two held outside Europe

A record level of financial support from other organisations

Highest ever ratings by participants of the value of conferences

Wilton Park's performance against agreed targets for 2003–04 is shown below. The targets cover cost recovery, quality of conference programmes and standards of service, including for the current year.

	2003–04 Target	2003–04 Performance	2004–05 Target
Total income	£3,732,000	£3,635,000	£3,987,000
Excellent rating for programmes	57%	57.9%	57%
Excellent rating for administration	89%	86.5%	89%

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Private Rented Sector

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill): My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister will publish for public consultation on 16 July a paper on licensing in the private rented sector concerning the implementation of selective licensing.

This paper seeks to explain the Government's proposals for licensing in the private rented sector that will be set in place by the Housing Bill, currently before Parliament. In particular, the paper explains the Government's proposals for selective licensing and sets out proposals for the secondary instruments required to implement these measures.

The powers in the Bill and proposed secondary legislation will give local authorities scope to license properties in those areas where the private rented sector is associated with problems of low demand and/or antisocial behaviour. Licensing will enable local authorities to:

Ensure that landlords are fit and proper persons or employ agents who are.

Ensure that the standards of tenancy relations' management and property management employed by a landlord or agent are adequate.

Impose conditions on licenses to achieve improvements in management where necessary.

Identify landlords and support them in participating in work to regenerate rundown areas or to tackle problems of antisocial behaviour.

Step in and manage properties where landlords refuse to meet the required criteria.

The paper invites interested parties to comment on how these powers should be implemented in relation to selective licensing through the necessary secondary legislation.

This consultation is being taken forward alongside the progress of the Bill through Parliament, not only to enable authorities to make an early start to tackling problems of low demand and antisocial behaviour once the Bill receives Royal Assent, but also better to inform the consideration of the Bill in Parliament.

Copies of the paper are being sent to a wide range of interested parties including local authorities, landlord and tenant organisations and others with an interest in this issue. The closing date for responses is 8 October 2004.

Copies of the paper will also be made available in the Libraries of the House and will be available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at www.odpm.gov.uk

TREASURY

Thalidomide Trust

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): The Treasury is today laying a statutory instrument which provides that payments by the Thalidomide Trust to the people affected by the drug thalidomide will in future be exempt from income tax. This legislative change, on which the Government have consulted with the trust, will come into effect on 5 August 2004.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Draft Disability Discrimination Bill

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Andrew Smith): I have today laid before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 6276) to the report by the House of Commons and House of Lords Joint Committee on the draft Disability Discrimination Bill, which was presented to Government on 27 May.

The Government are grateful to the Joint Committee for producing such a thorough report and we welcome the Committee's recognition of the important extensions in the draft Bill to disabled people's rights and freedoms. These include: taking a power to end the exemption of transport vehicles from the scope of the DDA's access to goods and service provisions; introducing a new duty on public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people; and extending the DDA's definition of disability to cover more people with HIV, cancer and multiple sclerosis.

The Committee made 75 recommendations and we have accepted them wherever they are worthwhile and practicable given our ambitious timetable, and in the light of our priority to legislate on and implement the new rights quickly. A number of the Committee's recommendations are for the Disability Rights Commission, and we commend those to the commission. Others concern purely procedural or administrative matters, which we accept. The remainder would require amendment to the draft Bill.

In respect of this latter category, we have accepted a number of important recommendations. These include:

ensuring that there are sufficient powers in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), which the draft Bill amends, so that the definition of disability can be amended to improve coverage, should this prove necessary in the light of future evidence;

removing the requirement in the DDA's definition of disability that mental illnesses must be "clinically well recognised" before a person can qualify as disabled under the Act;

amending the blue badge parking scheme to: (i) alter the wording of badges issued to groups caring for disabled people to "organisation" instead of "institution"; and (ii) provide legal recognition for blue badges issued by other member states of the European Union and European Conference of Ministers of Transport members and associate members;

removing the additional defence of ignorance from the draft Bill's provisions on third party publishers of discriminatory advertisements; and

ensuring that awarding (i.e. examination) bodies in respect of general qualifications (such as GCSE and the Scottish Standard Grade) will be covered under the DDA (as the awarding of vocational qualifications is already covered).

We are also committed to look at the current wording of some aspects of the draft Bill to ensure that there is clarity and certainty for those who will have rights and duties under the Bill. We are also considering changing the short title of the Bill to reflect better its intent.

Other changes to the DDA come into force in October 2004 (e.g. extending service providers' duty of reasonable adjustment to include physical features and implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003, which significantly extend the rights of disabled people in employment). The changes in the draft Bill, combined with the October 2004 changes, will ensure that by the end of this Parliament we have in place comprehensive civil rights for disabled people.

Our response to the Committee sets out an indicative timetable for implementation of the Bill following Royal Assent. This sees a number of the duties coming into force in December 2005 and others in December 2006.

There are some legislative recommendations made by the Committee that we have decided to reject. For far too long disability rights did not exist in law at all, so this is a new and rapidly evolving field. So, in many respects the basic framework of rights legislation is still bedding down both in the understanding and practice of employers, businesses, public bodies, private clubs and individuals. We must ensure that in driving forward key DDA features, we avoid the risk of confusion and uncertainty which could damage the effective implementation of the rights that the legislation provides. The Act will continue to be monitored and reviewed by the Disability Rights Commission, and any successor body, and we look forward to any future proposals on how the legislation can be improved still further.

Pension Credit

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Andrew Smith): I can now provide the latest monthly progress report on the take-up of pension credit, which became payable on 6 October 2003.

There are now 2.55 million pensioner households (3.09 million individuals) being paid pension credit, an increase of 52,000 households (66,000 individuals) during June. As at 30 June, there are 1.89 million households (2.28 million individuals) now receiving more money as a result of the introduction of pension credit, gaining by an average £15.57 a week. The average pension credit award is £41.99 per week.

There is plenty of time for pensioners to apply for pension credit. To ensure that people do not lose out, customers whose applications are successful in the period up to October 2004 will have their entitlement backdated to 6 October 2003 (or to the date of entitlement if this is later). The 2004 Budget statement confirmed that these arrangements will continue beyond October 2004. This means that anyone eligible applying after October 2004 will see their entitlement backdated by up to 12 months.

I am placing in the Library a report showing progress so far, including regional breakdowns of the number of pension credit households and numbers of pension credit awards in parliamentary constituencies in Great Britain. Copies of the report are also available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Complaints, Redress and Tribunals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Mr. Christopher Leslie): My noble Friend Lord Filkin, the Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement.

I am placing today in the Library of the House copies of the White Paper "Transforming Public Services: Complaints, Redress and Tribunals".

The Government are committed to improving access to administrative justice and justice in the workplace. Central and local government make millions of decisions each year about the rights and obligations of individuals and where things go wrong the public has the right to expect swift resolution. Similarly, employees are entitled to fair and decent standards in the workplace and some means of redress where these standards are breached. Tribunals deal with about a million cases a year. They are one means of redress, but not the only means.

This White Paper sets out the Government's vision for an improved and seamless system of dispute resolution. Sir Andrew Leggatt, in his report "Tribunals for Users", identified how tribunals can offer a better service for users. We have already announced our intention to accept the central theme of that report and create within the Department for Constitutional Affairs a single tribunal service, bringing together most central Government tribunals.

But this White Paper goes a step further. The basis for the new organisation will be the largest tribunal organisations administered by central Government, collectively responsible for more than 90 per cent. of tribunal cases. But the organisation we are creating will be more than just a federation of existing tribunals. This will be a new organisation and a new type of organisation. It will have a remit to innovate, looking at alternative methods of resolving disputes and stimulating improved decisionmaking so that the need for disputes does not arise. We intend that it will formally come into being in April 2006 but we are recruiting a chief executive now.

This approach to proportionate dispute resolution is the first manifestation of the Department's new strategy for helping users of the justice system resolve issues without recourse to formal hearings.

To help us deliver this new approach we also intend to create a more unified and cohesive corps of tribunal panel members better equipped to deliver the service users expect, while continuing to provide and enhance both their independence and their expertise. To provide

the tribunal judiciary with leadership through this time of change and beyond into the new service we intend to create in statute the post of senior president of tribunals. The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales has asked Lord Justice Robert Carnwath to act as senior president designate in advance of legislation.

We also believe that this new approach to administrative justice requires a new, more strategic organisation to oversee it so we plan to create an administrative justice council, based on the existing Council on Tribunals which currently supervises the work of tribunals in England, Scotland and Wales.

Written Ministerial Statements

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TREASURY

Tax and Benefit Reference Manual

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): Copies of the 2004–05 edition of the Tax Benefit Reference Manual (TBRM) are today being deposited in the House of Commons Library.

HM Treasury publishes the TBRM annually. It is a technical manual detailing the tax and benefit system, describing both the current and historic regimes. There are also tables of time series covering tax and benefit rates, numbers of tax payers and benefit claimants, VAT and duty rates and the tax burden on specimen households.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Fire and Rescue National Framework

The Minister for Local and Regional Government (Mr. Nick Raynsford): Today, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is publishing the 2004–05 fire and rescue national framework.

The Government have ambitious targets for the Fire and Rescue Service. Our overriding aim is to save more lives and stop unnecessary injuries through more effective action to prevent fires and by ensuring that the Fire and Rescue Service is well prepared and equipped to respond to the many challenges it faces. That is why we announced, as part of this year's spending review, a new public service agreement that commits us to achieving long-term reductions in fire deaths and deliberate fires, including real progress in the most disadvantaged areas. This builds on the commitments set out in the June 2003 White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service".

The national framework sets out the strategy for meeting these objectives and delivering an improved service that achieves better value for money for the communities it serves.

The Government published a draft version of the national framework for consultation in December 2003. The response to the draft was overwhelmingly positive. The majority of those who responded supported the Government's objectives and the modernisation programme. We have taken on board many of the useful comments and suggestions we received. As a result, the national framework sets out a shared strategy. It recognises that the Government and fire and rescue authorities must work in partnership to achieve our shared goals. We are also publishing a consultation response today, on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at: www.odpm.gov.uk/fire.

The national framework has also been updated to reflect progress on modernisation, including the replacement of outdated national standards with new local risk management plans and the establishment of regional management boards, which will help to deliver many functions more efficiently and effectively. The expectations of fire and rescue authorities set out in the national framework will be central to the Audit Commission's assessment of the performance of authorities.

Future versions of the national framework will be published in the autumn, to enable fire and rescue authorities to take full account of the national framework in their annual budgeting process. We will therefore start the consultation on the 2005–06 national framework shortly.

The Fire and Rescue Services Bill is currently before Parliament. If enacted it will give statutory force to the framework.

Copies of the 2004–05 fire and rescue national framework are available in the Libraries of the House and are also available on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at: www.odpm.gov.uk/fire.

Regional Transport Strategy (South-East)

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Keith Hill): My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister is today publishing the regional transport strategy (RTS) for the south-east. This follows the public examination into the draft RTS in July 2003, the panel report in October 2003, and the consultation on the Secretary of State's proposed changes that closed on 21 May 2004.

RTSs are an integral part of regional planning guidance (RPG) and the RTS for the south-east represents a revision to RPG9, as published in March 2001. On commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill, the RTS will be part of a statutory regional spatial strategy (RSS).

Other partial reviews of RPG9 are at various stages in the process. In particular, the public examination into the Milton Keynes and south Midlands sub-regional strategy has taken place and we are now awaiting the panels report and the consultation on the Secretary of State's proposed changes for the Ashford growth area has recently closed.

The RTS aims to achieve a transport system which progressively reaches the standards of the best in north-west Europe, by promoting management of and investment in the system; rebalancing the structure and use of the transport system in favour of more sustainable modes; and supporting the regional spatial strategy, particularly managing and investing in interregional corridors and delivering urban renaissance and sub-regional objectives. This approach should also inform local authorities and other agencies in preparing relevant regional and local strategies.

The consultation period for the proposed changes to the draft RTS ended on 21 May with some 300 responses from individuals or organisations. The majority of responses sought changes to specific policies within the RTS. Many of the points raised, particularly by individuals, concerned local issues.

From the 718 individual comments received, the policies and matters which received most comment were:

244 comments supporting the re-instatement of the Lewes/Uckfield rail link.

30 comments supporting the reintroduction of the regional frame.

27 comments on the investment tables, mostly on clarity or calls for higher priority.

17 comments on matters relating to accuracy and clarity of the maps.

In light of the level of interest revealed by responses supporting the Lewes/Uckfield rail line reinstatement, a reference to this proposal has been included in the supporting text relating the project to the development of the south-east plan.

The calls to reinstate the regional frame mainly restate the arguments put forward at the public examination, and in consequence the earlier decision to delete the regional frame, as recommended by the independent panel, is not changed.

For accuracy, to take account of recent changes to programmes, and in the light of further information about scheme details and promoters intentions, a number of changes have been made to the investment framework tables and maps.

The RTS is an integral and clearly identifiable part of RPG9. It will be reviewed through the development of the spatial strategy for the south-east, resulting in the publication of the south-east plan in due course.

Copies of the relevant documents are available in the Libraries of the House and have been provided for all of the region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Degree Awarding Powers and University Title Criteria

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Miss Melanie Johnson): I made a statement on 16 March about the results of the consultation on the proposed new criteria for degree awarding powers (DAP) and university title (UT) which ended on 12 December. We then consulted further in May on the following options for degree awarding powers:

Probationary DAP followed by indefinite DAP.

Indefinite DAP for organisations in the publicly funded higher education sector and fixed degree awarding powers for other organisations.

This consultation ended on 25 June. There was overwhelming support for option 2, with just a few respondents expressing preference for neither option or for option 1. I have placed a copy of the consultation report in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament, and it is available on the DfES website at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conResults.cfm?consultationId=1226

In light of the results of both consultations, the Government have decided in relation to England:

to modernise the criteria for the granting of degree awarding powers to make it easier for non-traditional higher education organisations to apply—along the lines set out in the original consultation document;

to make degree awarding powers for organisations in the publicly funded higher education sector indefinite and fixed for other organisations, subject to satisfactory external quality audit;

to grant university title on the basis of taught degree awarding powers and student numbers (which remain at current levels); and

to remove the requirement that institutions must have students in five subject areas to be eligible for university title (this will allow institutions specialising in one subject area to become universities).

We believe that these changes strike the right balance between our concern to modernise the criteria for both degree awarding powers and university title, with the concerns that emerged during both consultations.

The detailed revised criteria for England will be published on 1 September and the moratorium on new applications for DAPs from English institutions will be lifted on the same date. The moratorium on new applications for university title under the current criteria remains lifted.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prostitution (Public Consultation)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. David Blunkett): "Paying the Price: A Public Consultation Paper on Prostitution" was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library and are available from the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/inside/consults/index

Prostitution can have devastating consequences for those involved and for the wider community. It involves the abuse of children and the serious exploitation of adults. Violence and problematic drug use are common features and there are increasing links with trafficking and other types of organised crime. This consultation paper is the starting point for the development of a realistic and coherent strategy to deal with prostitution and its serious detrimental consequences for individuals and communities.

The paper seeks examples of innovative and effective ways to prevent the circumstances that make young people vulnerable to coercion into prostitution. Around 70 per cent. of those involved in prostitution started at a young age. Exploring the role for schools and considering ways to support those families where children and teenagers are vulnerable to coercion are key questions on which the paper seeks views.

The paper also asks questions about the delivery of justice. The prosecution of child abusers and exploiters is the best way to protect vulnerable people. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 began the process of law reform with the introduction of new offences and tough penalties for those who exploit anyone for the purposes of prostitution or pornography. The new measures in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 must be rigorously enforced, and an intelligence-based approach to investigations developed, if we are to combat the stranglehold of pimps and break the links between prostitution and drugs markets, trafficking and other areas of organised crime. The paper sets out examples of good investigative

practice and describes the new measures in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Bill which will strengthen the protection for those abused by their pimp partners. The paper lays out experiences across the world and encourages further examples of good practice to be provided during the consultation.

The civil and criminal law, along with environmental measures, is also considered in the paper. Communities suffer from the harassment of local residents, from noise and litter, and from the antisocial behaviour and criminality that is often associated with street prostitution. There are key questions to be addressed on how communities, through crime and disorder reduction partnerships and other forums can be given help and advice on developing effective preventative measures and support to safeguard their neighbourhoods.

Law reform is a crucial first step but it is widely recognised that enforcement alone is not the complete answer. Support for those trapped in exploitation through prostitution is also crucial. Providing a route out is the best long-term solution for those involved and for the communities that suffer from the nuisance and criminality associated with prostitution. The paper asks questions about the way in which protection and support can be provided most effectively. Also published today is a Home Office research study report, "Tackling Street Prostitution: Towards an Holistic Approach" which draws out good practice from eleven Crime Reduction Programme pilot projects. The challenge for the provision of effective exit strategies is for local services to work together to address the whole spectrum of issues faced by individuals trapped in prostitution. This often includes the need for drug treatment, advice and treatment for other health needs, housing, education and employment opportunities. The paper seeks views on how this can best be achieved.

Members of the House are invited to contribute to the review with information on how prostitution has affected individuals and their families, and local communities in their constituencies, and with examples of how prevention, protection and support, and the delivery of justice have been tackled. Consultation will be open for four months during which time my Department will be arranging discussion opportunities on all these issues with a wide range of key stakeholders, including those directly involved in prostitution. It is important to hear the views of all those with an interest in this complex and sensitive area, and the paper contains a set of key questions for consideration. Responses from Members of this House, and from the wider public, will enable positive local experiences to feed into the development of a clear and coherent national strategy to achieve, and sustain, a real impact on the issues arising from prostitution.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

United Kingdom Gulf Veterans' Mortality Data

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Ivor Caplin): As part of the Government's continuing commitment to investigate Gulf veterans' illnesses openly and honestly, data on the mortality of veterans of the 1990–91 Gulf conflict are regularly published. The most recent figures for the period 1 April 1991 to 30 June 2004, were published on 14 July 2004. The tables from that publication are set out below. Table 1 gives the causes of death to UK Gulf veterans over that period; table 2 shows the deaths due to malignant cancers among Gulf veterans. As with previous information, the data for Gulf veterans are compared to that of a control group known as the Era cohort which is made up of Armed Forces personnel of a similar age, gender, service, regular/reservist status and rank who were not deployed to the Gulf.

Key points to note are:

there were 663 deaths among Gulf veterans up to 30 June 2004 compared to 675 in the Era comparison group; and

approximately 1,032 deaths would have been expected in a similar sized group taken from the general population of the UK with the same age and gender profile.

Table 1: Deaths to UK Gulf Veterans[1] April 1991–30 June 2004

Causes[2]

ICD Chapter	*Cause of death*	*Gulf*	*Era*	*Mortality Rate Ratio*	*95% Confidence Interval*
	All deaths	**663**	**675**	**0.98**	**(0.88 – 1.09)**
	All cause coded deaths	**647**	**652**	**0.99**	**(0.88 – 1.10)**
I–XVIII	**Disease related causes**	**285**	**341**	**0.83**	**(0.71 – 0.98)**
I	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	6	3	1.99	(0.43 – 12.30)
II	Neoplasms	129	141	0.91	(0.71 – 1.16)
V	Mental and behavioural disorders	11	17	0.64	(0.27 – 1.46)
VI	Diseases of the nervous system	10	11	0.90	(0.34 – 2.35)
IX	Diseases of the circulatory system	97	121	0.80	(0.60 – 1.05)
X	Diseases of the respiratory system	10	6	1.66	(0.55 – 5.55)
XI	Diseases of the digestive system	16	23	0.69	(0.34 – 1.37)
III, IV, XII–XVIII	All other disease related causes[3]	6	9	0.31	(0.10 – 0.82)
XX	**External causes of mortality**	**362**	**311**	**1.16**	**(0.99 – 1.35)**
	Transport accidents:	167	127	1.31	(1.03 – 1 66)
	Land transport accident:[4]	136	106	1.28	(0.98 – 1.66)
	Pedestrian	16	6	2.65	(0.99 – 8.28)
	Motorcycle rider	34	28	1.21	(0.71 – 2.07)
	Car occupant	42	30	1.39	(0.85 – 2.31)
	Other[4]	44	42	1.04	(0.67 – 1.63)
	Water transport	5	1	4.98	(0.56 235.33)
	Air and space transport	26	20	1.29	(0.69 – 2.44)
	Other external causes of accidental injury:	67	59	1.13	(0.78 – 1.63)

Table 1: Deaths to UK Gulf Veterans[1] April 1991–30 June 2004

Causes[2]

ICD Chapter	Cause of death	Gulf	Era	Mortality Rate Ratio	95% Confidence Interval
	Falls	7	6	1.16	(0.33 – 4.18)
	Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces	12	14	0.85	(0.36 – 1.99)
	Accidental drowning and submersion and other accidental threats to breathing	13	6	216	(0.76 – 6.92)
	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	15	15	1.00	(0.45 – 2.18)
	Accidental exposure to other and unspecified factors	16	12	1.33	(0.59 – 3.07)
	Other	4	6	0.66	(0.14 – 2.80)
	Intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent[5]	12	110	1.09	(0.84 – 1.43)
	Assault	5	9	0.55	(0.15 – 1.84)
	Legal intervention and operations of war	2	2	1.00	(0.07 – 13.73)
	Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality	0	2	0.00	(0.00 – 5.30)
	Deaths where the inquest has been Adjourned	0	2		
	Other deaths for which cause data are not yet available	**12**	**19**		
	Overseas deaths for which cause data are not available	**4**	**4**		

Notes:

[1] Service and Ex-Service personnel only.

[2] Causes have been coded to the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD-10), 1992.

[3] Includes cases with insufficient information on the death certificate to provide a known cause of death.

[4] Under ICD-10 coding if the death certificate does not specifically mention the type of vehicle that was involved in the accident, thedeath is coded to "motor- or nonmotor vehicle accident, type of vehicle unspecified". (35 deaths to gulf veterans compared to 33 in theEra group.)

[5] These events have been given a coroners verdict of suicide or open verdict death. It includes one death whichhas been coded to F11.1 by ONS. This death has been excluded from the mental and behavioural disorders.

Table 2: Deaths to UK Gulf veterans due to neoplasms: 1 April 1991–30 June 2004

Major cancer sites and specific sites with at least five deaths in one of the cohorts

ICD	Cancer site	Gulf	Era	Mortality Rate Ratio	95% Confidence Interval
C00–D48	**Neoplasms**	**129**	**141**	**0.91**	**(0.71 – 1.16)**
C00–C99	**Malignant Neoplasms (MN)**	**126**	**138**	**0.91**	**(0.71 – 1.17)**
C00–C14	MN of lip, oral cavity and pharynx	6	4	1.49	(0.35 – 7.19)
C15–C26, C48	MN of digestive organs and peritoneum	29	35	0.82	(0.49 – 1.39)
C15	MN of oesophagus	9	5	1.79	(0.54 – 6.80)
C18	MN of colon	4	14	0.28	(0.07 – 0.91)
C25	MN of pancreas	5	6	0.83	(0.20 – 3.26)
C30-C39, C45	MN of respiratory and intrathoracic organs	19	30	0.63	(0.34 – 1.57)
C34	MN of bronchus and lung	16	26	0.61	(0.31 – 1.19)
C40–C44, C47, C49–C50	MN of bone, connective tissue, skin and breast	15	12	1.24	(0.54 – 2.91)
C43	Malignant melanoma of skin	7	5	1.39	(0.38 – 5.57)
C51–C68	MN of genitourinary organs	5	7	0.71	(0.18 – 2.60)
C69–C80	MN of other and unspecified sites	26	34	0.76	(0.44 – 1.31)
C71	MN of brain	17	20	0.85	(0.42 – 1.70)
C80	MN without specification of site	8	11	0.72	(0.25 – 1.98)
C81–C96	MN of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	26	16	1.62	(0.84 – 3.23)
C81–C85, C91.4, C96	Lymphomas	13	9	1.44	(0.57 – 3.81)
C82–C85, C91.4, C96	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	9	6	1.49	(0.47 – 5.10)
C91–C95 excl C91.4	Leukaemias	11	6	1.82	(0.62 – 6.01)
C92	Myeloid leukaemia	8	4	1.99	(0.53 – 9.03)
D00–D48	**In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain behaviour or unspecified nature**	**3**	**3**	**1.00**	**(0.13 – 7.43)**

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Central Government Payment Performance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Nigel Griffiths): The overall payment performance of Government is 96.68 per cent. Figures for the financial year 2003–04 show that there has been a slight improvement on last year's figure. There has been a continued improvement in the payment performance of a number of Departments and agencies, with 20 achieving the average or above, and 24 improving on their performance of last year.

Government Departments and their agencies are required to monitor their payment performance and to publish the results in their departmental or annual reports. The table lists, by Department, the proportion of bills paid within 30 days, or other agreed credit period, on receipt of a valid invoice.

The Government take this issue very seriously and are committed to improving the payment culture in the UK. In order to create fair and stable business transactions, the Government's own payment performance is an important element in this policy.

Main Departments 2003–04	*Paid on Time* %
Defence Bills Agency (Ministry of Defence)	100.00
Privy Council Office	100.00
Office for Government Commerce	99.97
Registers of Scotland Executive Agency	99.73
Office of Water Services (OFWAT)	99.43
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	99.34
The National Archives (Public Records Office)	99.26
Office of Gas & Electricity Mkts (OFGEM)	99.30
Inland Revenue	99.07
Health & Safety Executive	98.85
Export Credit Guarantee Department	98.72
HM Customs & Excise	98.60
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	98.14
Office for National Statistics	98.12
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	97.95
Cabinet Office (OPS)	97.79
Charity Commission	97.49
Northern Ireland Court Service	97.32
Ordnance Survey	97.11
Scotland Office Department for Constitutional Affairs	96.84
Postal Services Commission	96.60
Office of Fair Trading	96.51
Food Standards Agency	96.33
Department for International Development	96.26
Forestry Commission	96.26
Wales Office	96.03
Department of Health	95.88
Central Office of Information	95.54
Department for Education & Skills	95.43
Department for Work and Pensions	94.96
Department for Transport	94.87
Electoral Commission	94.86
DEFRA	94.61
Office for Standards in Education	94.09
Department of Trade and Industry	93.60
Treasury Solicitors Department	92.62
Serious Fraud Office	92.28
Department for Constitutional Affairs (Lord Chancellor's Department)	91.43
Royal Mint	91.39
Government Communications HQ	90.08
Home Office	89.90
Department for National Savings and Investments	89.19
Land Registry	89.13
UK Trade & Investment (British Trade International)	88.80
Office of the Rail Regulator	88.01
Northern Ireland Office	86.23
HM Treasury	80.91
Crown Prosecution Service	80.55
Government Actuary's Department	66.64
Average percentage paid on time across Government	96.68

HEALTH

NHS Dentistry

The Secretary of State for Health (Dr. John Reid): We are committed to rebuilding National Health Service dentistry to ensure better access to NHS dental care and to improve oral health in England. We want to see a better deal for patients, dentists and the NHS. We are aware that in some areas it can still be difficult, especially for adults, to access NHS dental care.

There are over 19,000 dentists in primary care, which is more than ever before. But they are spending less time on their NHS work, which leaves some people unable to get the routine treatment they want on the NHS unless they are prepared and able to travel.

We have already announced funding of £59 million to tackle access problems and have set up an NHS support team to work with the hardest pressed areas. However we recognise that more needs to be done and that is why I am today outlining the Government's plans to recruit more NHS dentists in the short term, to invest in dentistry and to reform the system for the long-term benefit of the oral health of the people of England.

To address short-term access problems we will recruit the equivalent of over an additional 1,000 whole time NHS dentists by October 2005.

This objective will be achieved by a range of measures:

securing extra NHS capacity from dentists who currently work partly in the NHS and partly in private practice;

attracting dentists back from career breaks and flexible working;

an international recruitment programme, already under way targeting dentists from the European Union, including the new accession countries;

clearing the backlog of dentists waiting to sit the international qualifying exam by December 2004—to allow dentists who have qualified outside the EU to practise here.

In addition, NHS dentistry will benefit from extra investment:

We will fund 170 extra undergraduate training places in England from October 2005. This 25 per cent increase will be supported by capital investment of up to £80 million over four years with the first £20 million available in 2005–06 and revenue costs which will reach £29 million per annum by 2010–11;

funding for dentistry will increase by 19.3 per cent (excluding the impact of additional superannuation costs) in 2005–06 compared to spending on dentistry in 2003–04. This compares with growth of 17.8 per cent in overall NHS revenue resources over the same two year period. At October 2005 the government will be investing £1.6 billion in dentistry (including £50 million superannuation costs) compared to £1.3 billion in 2003–04;

financial resources for primary dental services will be devolved to Primary Care Trusts from 1 October 2005. The financial year 2004–05 will be a preparatory year and we will be consulting PCTs now on indicative financial allocations for dentistry for 2004–05 and 2005–06, as well as issuing proposed 2005 contract values for dentists, based on their most recent gross earnings.

The additional investment will provide a sound foundation on which PCTs can rebuild a NHS dental service fit for the 21st century.

Long-term change is also required to modernise the dentistry profession and this is why we are:

introducing new contracts for dentists. We have already made legislative changes. The measures in the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 represent the most radical reform of NHS dentistry since 1948. Our proposals for NHS dentistry will underpin a modernised, high-quality primary dental service provided through contracts between PCTs and dental practices. The service will be properly integrated with the rest of the NHS providing better access to services and an improved patient experience.

We have already made considerable progress on implementation. We have consulted widely with representatives of the profession on the framework proposed for the new primary dental services. A recurrent theme from

the consultation is that time is too short for our planned implementation date of 1 April 2005. The British Dental Association asked for phased implementation. I have therefore concluded that we should give more time to the NHS and to dentists to prepare for these significant changes and I am also announcing today that the new arrangements will be introduced from 1 October 2005, rather than 1 April 2005. In recognition of the additional work and training dentists and their practice staff will need to prepare for these changes we will make available an extra £9 million to help dental practices prepare for October 2005.

The new arrangements are modelled on five years successful experience of personal dental services (PDS) pilots. The PDS continues to provide an opportunity for those dentists and their PCTs who wish to move further and faster towards local commissioning to do so. There are already more than 1,500 dentists in more than 750 practices working under PDS arrangements, out of a total of around 9,000 practices. With this in mind, I am asking PCTs to encourage dental practices to notify PCTs of their intention to move early to local commissioning under existing piloting arrangements. We will shortly publish additional guidance for dentists and PCTs to streamline this conversion process—with a 12 week turnaround time from application to approval.

using the skills of the whole dental team more appropriately—so that hygienists and therapists provide more routine and preventative care. I have already invested an additional £5 million to increase the number of training places for dental therapists from just 50 to 200. Some of those new training places are already on stream, and the first of the additional therapists will be joining the workforce in autumn 2006.

looking into simplifying the system of patient charges. The NHS dentistry patient charges working group, which involved experts from national patient, consumer and dentist organisations, has made recommendations to Ministers which we are currently considering.

I can also confirm our aim to publish for consultation the new regulations for local commissioning of primary dental services and dental charging (but not the actual level of charges) in the spring of 2005.

This package of measures represents an unprecedented level of Government commitment and investment in NHS dentistry.

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Secretary of State for Health (Dr. John Reid): Following my announcement on 19 November at column 826 of *Hansard*, of my intention to set up a review of the first national health service foundation trusts, I wrote yesterday to the chair of the Healthcare Commission (whose statutory name is the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection), Sir Ian Kennedy, asking the commission to provide me with advice in accordance with its statutory obligations.

The review will consider the challenges, difficulties and experiences of those trusts which became NHS foundation trusts on 1 April 2004 and 1 July 2004, although the views and opinions of those trusts aspiring to be authorised this autumn will be important. In undertaking the review, the healthcare commission will need to work closely with the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts. However, the final report will be advice to me from the healthcare commission. I have previously made a commitment not to approve any new proposals for NHS foundation trust applications between autumn 2004 and autumn 2005, pending the outcome of this review.

The terms of reference for the review are:

what evidence in general terms is there that NHS foundation trusts are using their powers to

improve access to services,

improve the quality of care for patients,

engage the local community,

engage staff to deliver high quality care to patients and the population;

what obstacles have NHS foundation trusts faced and do they foresee in achieving the above objectives;

what has been the impact of NHS foundation trusts, so far, on relationships within the local health economy;

in what ways are their governance arrangements assisting or impeding NHS foundation trusts from exercising their powers for the benefit of patients?

It is my expectation that the report of the outcome of the review will be published in summer 2005. Copies of my letter to Sir Ian have been placed in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Honours System

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): The Government have received Sir Hayden Phillips' report on his review of the honours system. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

We shall consider this report alongside the report "A Matter of Honour: Reforming the Honours System" (HC212) by the Public Administrator Select Committee, which was published on 7 July. The Government will make a statement on the way forward later this year.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

E-Conveyancing (Progress Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Mr. David Lammy): Since the publication of the e-conveyancing consultation report last year, Land Registry has continued to work closely with stakeholders, including potential service providers, to determine the structure of e-conveyancing services in England and Wales.

I have recently approved a report by Land Registry on its recommended way forward and copies of a document entitled "Defining the Service" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Whilst this document describes the e-conveyancing services to be delivered, it should be noted that these are the subject of ongoing consultation with stakeholders and may be subject to future revision. The e-conveyancing service will comprise three main components:

A central e-conveyancing service controlled by Land Registry.

An accompanying electronic funds transfer service to be supplied by an "Agent Bank" (or banks) and

Service delivery channels provided largely by the private sector, but including a Land Registry channel.

I have agreed the proposed structure and have asked Land Registry to continue work to develop these three services. In the design and build of the central e-conveyancing service and the Land Registry channel, the Department will procure the assistance of an IT strategic supplier.

Land Registry will procure an "Agent Bank" (or banks) to support the electronic funds transfer service.

Land Registry will consider the options for the future fee structure for its e-conveyancing and paper services and report back to me on this by the end of 2004.

Commonhold (Implementation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Mr. David Lammy): On the 14 July I made the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (Commencement No 4) Order 2004. The order will bring into force on 27 September 2004 the whole of the remainder of Part 1 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 except for section 21(4) and (5).

I have today also laid before each House the Commonhold Regulations 2004 and the Commonhold (Land Registration) Rules 2004 with, in each case, an explanatory memorandum, which includes a regulatory impact assessment.

The effect of these instruments is that as from 27 September commonhold will be available in England and Wales as a new way of owning interdependent freehold properties, such as blocks of flats. It combines the security of freehold ownership with a robust standard legal framework for the management of common facilities. It will be an alternative to long leasehold ownership and will be equally available for residential and commercial property.

The implementation of commonhold fulfils a manifesto commitment made in 2001 and will increase housing choice.

To accompany the Commonhold Regulations my Department has published non-statutory guidance. I have placed copies in the Libraries of both Houses. It is intended that Land Registry Practice Guide in connection with the Commonhold (Land Registration) Rules will be published in the near future following the making of a fee order for commonhold applications. Copies of the Regulations and the non-statutory guidance will be available on my Department's website and copies of the rules will be available on Land Registry's website.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 28 June 2004

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Archaeological Objects

Mr. Allan: To ask the Solicitor-General what guidance she issues to the Crown Prosecution Service in respect of calculating the value of archaeological objects that form part of a prosecution under heritage legislation. [172210]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service has not issued guidance on the valuation of objects which form part of a prosecution for offences under legislation designed to protect the national heritage.

Crown prosecutors review all cases submitted to them by the police, in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. Prosecutors assess whether there is sufficient available evidence on all the elements of the offence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction. They will ask the police to provide further evidence where necessary, which may include expert valuation if appropriate. Where there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction, prosecutors will then go on to consider whether a prosecution is required in the public interest.

Bribery

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to her answer of 29 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on overseas bribery, how many cases of overseas bribery were referred to CPS Casework Directorate *(a)* between November 1997 and February 2002 and *(b)* since 14 February 2002. [174284]

The Solicitor-General: CPS Casework Directorate does not record separately whether a corruption case received by it involves an overseas element. It is not therefore possible to provide accurate figures.

However, in order to assist, the CPS has considered what information is available and indicates that it is likely that in the period November 1997 and February 2002, around 240 cases were referred to Casework Directorate, which involved or may have involved allegations of corruption. Similarly from February 2002 to the present, Casework Directorate has recorded a total of about 80 cases which involved, or may have involved, allegations of corruption either within England and Wales or overseas. In order to ascertain which of these cases specifically involved overseas corruption, each individual case file would need to be examined which would incur disproportionate cost and in any case may not provide a definitive answer.

Casework Directorate is however able to say, having asked its staff, that they are currently advising the police in five cases, which involve allegations of overseas corruption. All the cases are still being investigated and no charges have yet been brought.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Energy Efficiency Commitment

Sue Doughty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what terrawatt hour savings she estimates would accrue from the first phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (2002–05) if the prevailing test discount rate were to be 3.5 per cent. [179879]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 22 June 2004]:* The 6 per cent. discount rate used for the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) 2002–05 was the standard rate used by Government at that time. The rate was reduced to 3.5 per cent. in January 2003 to reflect prevailing circumstances.

Changing only the discount rate from 6 per cent. to 3.5 per cent., the fuel standardised lifetime-discounted savings from the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2002–05 would change from 62 terawatt hours (TWh) to 81 TWh.

However, some of the assumptions underlying average energy savings from specific energy efficiency measures have also changed, in addition to the change in the discount rate, as explained in the consultation document for the next phase of the EEC. If the illustrative mix of measures under EEC 2002–05 were subjected to the same set of assumptions which are now being applied to the second phase of EEC (2005–08) the TWh figure would fall from 81 to 66. The target level proposed for EEC 2005–08 as part of the consultation process is subject to continuing analysis and will be finalised in the relevant Statutory Order following the public consultation.

Global Food Consumption

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the future growth of global consumption of food. [177413]

Alun Michael: The Department has made no assessment of the future growth of global food consumption.

Projections of global food consumption are made by the OECD. The following table reports projections for global consumption of cereals.

million tonnes

	Estimated consumption, 2002–03	*Projected consumption, 2008–09*
Wheat	588.2	653.4
Coarse grains	881.8	973.8
Rice	407.8	435.8
All cereals	1,877.8	2,063.0

Source:
OECD Agricultural Outlook 2003–04.

Further details can be found at the following web address. http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/26/0/2956127.pdf

Projections up to 2013–14 for global consumption of the major food commodities are made by the Food and Policy Research Institute and can be found in its publication, FAPRI 2004 World Agricultural Outlook. http://www.fapri.iastate.edu/brfbk04/BrfBk2004.pdf

Salmon Fishing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many salmon were caught by *(a)* net and *(b)* rod in Lancashire rivers in each of the last five years. [180428]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables give the numbers of salmon caught by net and by rod in the rivers Lune, Ribble and Wyre in each of the last five years.

Table 1: salmon caught in the River Lune, Lancashire

	Number of salmon caught by rod	Number of salmon caught by rod, subsequently released	Percentage of salmon caught by rod, subsequently released	Number of salmon caught by net
1999	1,032	506	49	803
2000	1,440	808	56	1,527
2001	566	364	64	1,121
2002	1,127	691	61	1,531
2003	823	476	58	810

Table 2: salmon caught in the River Ribble, Lancashire

	Number of salmon caught by rod	Number of salmon caught by rod, subsequently released	Percentage of salmon caught by rod, subsequently released	Number of salmon caught by net
1999	633	384	61	210
2000	827	455	55	176
2001	349	208	60	130
2002	692	420	61	228
2003	556	357	64	155

Table 3: salmon caught in the River Wyre, Lancashire

	Number of salmon caught by rod	Number of salmon caught by rod, subsequently released	Percentage of salmon caught by rod, subsequently released	Number of salmon caught by net
1999	5	0	0	n/a
2000	5	2	40	n/a
2001	11	4	36	n/a
2002	15	13	87	n/a
2003	3	1	33	n/a

Water Leakage

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the water leakage rates were for each water company in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the last year for which figures were available. [179406]

Mr. Morley: Water company leakage data is published annually by the Director General of Water Services in the annual 'Security of supply, leakage and the efficient use of water' reports, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The reported total leakage figures in 1997–98 and 2002–03 in megalitres per day were as follows:

megalitres per day

Water Companies	1997–98	2002–03
Anglian	240	192
Bournemouth and W Hants	26.3	22
Bristol	59.3	53
Cambridge	14.4	14
Dee Valley	12.2	11
Folkestone and Dover	8.71	8
Mid Kent	36.1	28
Northumbrian North	184	153
Northumbrian South	82.2	67
Portsmouth	32	30
Severn Trent	399	515
South East	108	72
South Staffordshire	81.8	71
South West	101	84
Southern	98.8	92
Sutton and East Surrey	25.9	24
Tendring Hundred	5.75	5
Thames	906	925
Three Valleys	172	152
United Utilities	579	465
Wessex	110	75
Yorkshire	377	296

Water Resources Act

Mrs. Lawrence: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to amend the Water Resources Act 1991 to implement Recommendation 7 in Lord Donaldson's Review, Salvage and Intervention and their Command and Control, published in 1999. [180158]

Mr. Morley: I have agreed with my hon. Friend the Minister for Shipping that officials at the Department for Transport will investigate how to implement this recommendation. Officials are currently examining the possibility of using a Regulatory Reform Order.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Postal Ballot Pilots

21. **Mr. Pickthall:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Commission has made of the all-postal voting system, following the pilots in four English regions in the June elections. [180452]

Mr. Viggers: The Commission is required by section 4 of the European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004 to report on each of the electoral pilots within three months of the date of declaration of the result of the European Parliamentary general election in the relevant region. This period expires on 13 September in all cases. The section sets out the scope of the evaluation which the Commission is required to undertake. The Commission has made available in the Library the evaluation framework document it has developed for this purpose.

26. **Bob Spink:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the postal ballot pilots. [180458]

Mr. Viggers: The Commission is required by section 4 of the European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004 to report on each of the electoral pilots within three months of the date of declaration of the result of the European Parliamentary general election in the relevant region. This period expires on 13 September in all cases. The section sets out the scope of the evaluation which the Commission is required to undertake. The Commission has made available in the Library the evaluation framework document it has developed for this purpose.

David Taylor: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment *(a)* has been made and *(b)* is planned of the all-postal ballot pilot carried out in the East Midlands for the recent European and local elections. [180515]

Mr. Viggers: The Commission is required by section 4 of the European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004 to report on each of the electoral pilots within three months of the date of declaration of the result of the European Parliamentary general election in the relevant region. This period expires on 13 September in all cases. Separate reports will be published for each region, including the East Midlands. The evaluation framework document developed by the Commission is available in the Library of the House.

Norman Baker: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what plans the Commission has to assess the integrity of the voting system, with specific reference to postal ballots. [180453]

Mr. Viggers: By virtue of section 4 of the European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004, the Commission is required to report, within three months of the declaration of the result of the European Parliamentary general election in the region, on the all-postal pilot schemes that took place earlier this month. The Commission's report will consider issues of electoral integrity and will be published by the statutory deadline of 13 September 2004. The Commission also continues to assess the operation of postal voting on demand, and will be reviewing the impact of its draft Code of Conduct for political parties, candidates and canvassers on the handling of postal voting applications and postal ballot papers in this context.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Activity Target

12. **Mr. Rendel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress her Department has made in assessing the likelihood of achieving its activity target to get 70 per cent. of the population reasonably active by 2020. [180472]

Tessa Jowell: The Department is currently reviewing the 70 per cent. Game Plan target through the Choosing Activity consultation jointly published with the Department of Health on 6 May 2004.

Horse Racing (Scotland)

15. **Mr. Tynan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the consequences for horse racing in Scotland of the Office of Fair Trading Report on the Modernisation of British Horse Racing. [180475]

Mr. Caborn: The outcome of the OFT inquiry, taken together with the BHB's own plans for the modernisation of racing, will provide a firm basis for the sport's future success both in Scotland and the rest of the country.

Gambling

16. **Mr. Pickthall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to discourage gambling. [180476]

Mr. Caborn: No. For most people gambling is a harmless leisure pursuit; and participation should be a matter of informed adult choice. But in the Gambling Bill we propose to discourage problem gambling, by strengthening safeguards for the young and vulnerable.

Licensing Act 2003

17. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to publish the fee structure for licence applications under the Licensing Act 2003. [180478]

Tessa Jowell: I will release draft regulations, showing fee levels, for public consultation as soon as possible.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had in the last six months on the likely impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on the level of binge drinking. [180473]

Tessa Jowell: In the last six months I and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, have had extensive discussions across Government and with the police, local authorities and the industry about the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on binge drinking. We expect the Act to help reduce levels of binge drinking currently occurring as a result of fixed closing times for on-licensed premises.

Tourism (England)

18. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the promotion of tourism in England. [180479]

Mr. Caborn: VisitBritain launched its domestic marketing strategy in November last year to grow the value of domestic tourism throughout the English regions throughout the year. Since then VisitBritain has run a number of campaigns including 'Outdoor England' and 'City Culture'. Further campaigns are planned for later this year.

Art Exports

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* museum directors, *(b)* the Society of London Art Dealers and *(c)* auction houses about the export of works of art of national importance. [180935]

Estelle Morris: The main forum for discussion about the export of works of art of national importance is the Advisory Council to the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art. The Advisory Council consists of representatives of all parties interested in the export control of cultural objects, including Directors of museums and representatives from the Art Trade. The Advisory Council usually meets annually, at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Members are consulted on relevant policy issues and members can use the meeting to express their views and concerns. The next meeting takes place on 1 July.

Departmental Policies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury regarding her Department's policies on (i) Stonehenge and (ii) digital broadcasting; and what the outcome was of these discussions. [180593]

Estelle Morris: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has had regular discussions with Treasury colleagues about the Spending Review 2004. The outcome of these discussions will form part of the Spending Review settlement which will be announced in the coming weeks.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* current and *(b)* projected level of spending by her Department is on (i) Stonehenge and (ii) digital broadcasting. [180595]

Estelle Morris: English Heritage, which is funded by DCMS grant in aid, manages Stonehenge on behalf of DCMS as part of its portfolio of properties. The level of spending on Departmental administrative costs for Stonehenge is estimated at £40,000 in 2004–05.

DCMS will spend £220,000 on preparations for digital switchover in 2004–05.

The total level of future spending on both these areas beyond 2004–05 depends on the outcome of the current Spending Review which my right hon. Friend the Chancellor will announce in the coming weeks.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many television viewers in Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber she estimates are unable to receive digital broadcasts. [180251]

Estelle Morris: Ofcom do not hold data for digital coverage in individual constituencies, however digital terrestrial television is unavailable to around 18 per cent. of the Scottish population and less than 1 per cent. of the UK are unable to receive digital satellite.

The Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber constituency is primarily served by two transmitters; one near Rosemarkie serving Nairn and most of Inverness, and Torosay transmitter on Mull, serving western coastal parts of the constituency. Both of these are transmitting digital services. Other areas are likely to be receiving signals from smaller relay stations, which have not yet been upgraded to digital.

Dorney Lake Rowing Facility

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the funding required to complete the Dorney Lake Rowing Facility to the standard required by the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron for international and Olympic events is; and if she will make a statement. [180524]

Mr. Caborn: Information provided by the Amateur Rowing Association in May 2004 indicates that a figure of up to £1.3 million will be required.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what arrangements have been made to ensure that the Dorney Lake Rowing Facility facilities will be completed to the standard required by the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron by May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [180525]

Mr. Caborn: The Dorney Lake facility has been developed by Eton College and their associated organisation, the Dorney Lake Trust. These organisations are working closely with the Amateur Rowing Association to ensure that the completed facilities will meet the required standards.

Entertainment Licences

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will use her powers under the Licensing Act 2003 to include sporting events shown on large screens in bars, public houses and other licensed premises within the definition of regulated entertainment under Schedule 1 of the Act. [180370]

Mr. Caborn: We have no current plans to use the powers in the Licensing Act 2003 to license the showing of live broadcast sporting events on large screens in licensed premises. Under the 2003 Act, all public houses and bars showing live sporting events on television will require premises licences because they sell alcohol and, as a result, will be required to take steps to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives in relation to the premises. These objectives are the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. If they fail to do so, they could face a review of the licence. Furthermore, it will be an offence under the 2003 Act to allow disorderly conduct on the premises and knowingly to sell, attempt to sell, or to allow alcohol to be sold to people who are already drunk. Finally, the police have powers (in certain circumstances) under the 2003 Act to close down instantly for up to 24 hours any relevant premises where a senior officer believes there is, or is likely to be, disorder on or in the vicinity of the premises, or alternatively where a public nuisance is being caused as a result of noise emanating from the premises.

Libraries (Digitisation)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money has been spent on the digitisation of content in libraries in the constituency of Tamworth since 1997. [179965]

Estelle Morris: This information is not held centrally.

The New Opportunities Fund £50 million Digitisation of Learning Materials Programme has delivered 150 projects across the UK to enable resources which support learning of all kinds held in libraries as well as museums, archives and other public-sector institutions, to be made available online through the People's Network and the National Grid for Learning. This initiative has created a body of material containing over two million images, tens of thousands of sound and video clips and documents and over 1,000 learning packages. All projects can be accessed via the EnrichUK portal at http://www.enrichuk.net.

Information on grants awarded to individual local authorities and their expenditure can be obtained from the relevant authority.

Lottery (Good Causes)

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been raised for charitable purposes through National Lottery funding since its establishment. [180448]

Estelle Morris: From the inception of the National Lottery to 31 May 2004, the charitable, expenditure good cause has received £2,718,682,810.93. This money has been for distribution by the Community Fund.

This is made up of £2,469,620,150.50 in income from Lottery operations and £249,062,660.43 in investment returns accrued on balances held for distribution prior to their dispersal to project operators.

Museums Policy

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on her museums policy. [180474]

Estelle Morris: My policy is to broaden the audience base through free admission to national museums and other measures, to encourage excellence and to promote the renaissance of regional museums. In relation to the keeping of art and artefacts in the United Kingdom, about which the hon. Member is particularly interested, my policy is to ensure that the systems we have in place are aimed at retaining objects of national importance within the United Kingdom.

Ormai Portrait

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what checks her Department has carried out to ensure that Sir Joshua Reynold's portrait of Ormai has not been exported. [180614]

Estelle Morris: Any attempt to export this portrait without a licence would be in breach of the law. If information or evidence came to light that such a breach had occurred, I would ask Customs and Excise (as the enforcement authority) to investigate and to take appropriate action.

Publicly Owned/Funded Collections

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initiatives the Government has introduced to improve public access to the publicly-owned collections of museums, galleries and other civic buildings; and if she will make a statement. [180523]

Estelle Morris: In December 2001, the Government introduced free admission to the permanent collections of DCMS-sponsored museums and galleries in England that had previously charged for admission. This has seen a 72 per cent. increase in visits to those museums and galleries. In October 2002, DCMS announced that it would allocate £70 million over four years to support local authority and other regional museums through the Renaissance in the Regions programme, which aims to improve access.

As well as overseeing the Renaissance programme, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, funded by DCMS, is delivering initiatives aimed at improving physical and virtual access, including the museum registration scheme, which sets minimum accessibility standards; good practice guides covering social inclusion, cultural diversity and access for people with disabilities; and funding for the UK's national virtual museum, the 24 Hour Museum. DCMS and DfES have jointly funded a programme of national/regional museum partnerships across England, which supports the education of school age children. The programme also helps to strengthen communities through involving them with collections and their curators. The joint DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Fund provides capital funding to enable eligible museums and galleries to improve physical access to their collections.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the *(a)* value and *(b)* number of objects held in publicly-funded collections in (i) museums, (ii) galleries and (iii) other public buildings in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [180585]

Estelle Morris: Objects held in publicly-funded collections in museums, galleries and other public buildings in the United Kingdom are a matter for the governing bodies of those institutions. I have not, therefore, made estimates of the total value and number of such objects, but the total number of objects held by the principal museums and galleries in England that are sponsored by the Department is estimated to exceed 130 million.

Royal Collection

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who audits the accuracy of the inventory of items in the Royal Collection; and what assessment she has made of whether the inventory is comprehensive. [180471]

Estelle Morris: The maintenance and care of the Royal Collection is the responsibility of the Royal Collection Trust and not the Government. I understand

that Royal Collection staff carry out regular inventory checks to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the inventory. The process is reviewed regularly by the Royal Household's Internal Audit Department and their reports are reviewed by the Royal Collection Trust's external auditors.

Stonehenge

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding has been spent on Stonehenge in each year since 1990. [175273]

Estelle Morris: Since 1990, English Heritage has spent £36,404,000 of public funds on Stonehenge and generated an income of £42,843,000. This is broken down as follows:

£000

	Grant in aid	*Income*
1990–91	1,099	1,720
1991–92	1,665	1,666
1992–93	1,615	1,917
1993–94	1,671	2,348
1994–95	1,632	2,561
1995–96	2,114	2,754
1996–97	2,468	3,161
1997–98	2,046	3,316
1998–99	2,693	3,761
1999–2000	2,999	4,045
2000–01	5,355	3,840
2001–02	3,831	3,567
2002–03	3,898	3,870
2003–04	3,318	4,287
Total	36,404	42,843

The net profit of £6,439,000 has been re-invested in the wider work of English Heritage, which covers conservation, education, grants to third parties, research and the upkeep of over 400 properties in its care.

Television Advertising

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has held with Ofcom on regulation of advertisements on television. [180477]

Estelle Morris: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had various discussions with Ofcom regarding the regulation of broadcast advertising—particularly in relation to current concerns about the possible impact of broadcast advertising on childhood obesity and Ofcom's proposals for the future co-regulation of broadcast advertising. DCMS officials have also had a wide variety of contacts with Ofcom to discuss these issues.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment has been made of standards in advertising on television. [180447]

Estelle Morris: The Communications Act 2003 provides for Ofcom to have general responsibility for the regulation of the content of broadcasting services, including all television advertising. It is for Ofcom to ensure that there is an appropriate standards code for the regulation of broadcast advertising and that it is targeted and proportionate.

Working Time Directive

Mr. Tynan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees in her Department have *(a)* signed a formal opt out from and *(b)* are exempt from, the Working Time Directive; and how many employees in her Department have recorded hours, including any accruing on a flexitime basis, in excess of the maximum allowed under the Working Time Directive in the last month for which figures are available. [178367]

Mr. Caborn: In my Department, *(a)* formal opt-out forms from the Working Time Directive are held at local management level and are not readily available and *(b)* there is no one who is exempt from the formal opt-out agreement. Working hours including those accruing on a flexitime basis, are monitored by line managers locally and no central figures are available. The Department is committed to reducing the number of staff who are required to work in excess of 48 hours per week to an absolute minimum commensurate with meeting our operational needs.

PRIME MINISTER

Health Services (Buckinghamshire)

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has responded to the consultation paper Shaping Health Services—Creating Better Healthcare for Buckinghamshire. [180970]

The Prime Minister: No.

Lord Birt/Lord Levy

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to paragraph 51 of the Ministerial Code, on what dates letters of appointment were issued by him to *(a)* Lord Birt and *(b)* Lord Levy, in their capacity as unpaid advisors; and if he will place copies of those letters in the Library. [180557]

The Prime Minister: Details of an individual's conditions of appointment are not made public in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned under exemptions 8 and 12 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Computer Services

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee if the Parliamentary Communications Directorate will *(a)* provide information to hon. Members about services available and *(b)* update computers to permit centrally provided lap-top personal computers to be enabled to dial-up local numbers when abroad to access an internet service provider in order to use the web-based Outlook facility. [180266]

Mr. Key: There are no plans to provide Members with access to a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) while they are abroad. Members can already access the

Parliamentary Network while abroad using either the Citrix remote access service or a Virtual Private Network dial-up account; both of these involve making a telephone call to a UK number and Members can claim the cost of such calls from their Incidental Expenses Provision. The Parliamentary Communications Directorate (PCD) plans to make web-based access to a Members' e-mail and on-line diary available before the Houses rises for the summer recess. With this new service, access will be possible from any computer with an Internet connection, such as computers provided in conference or hotel business centres, airport departure lounges, and Internet cafes. The software used will ensure that no trace of the Member's activity is left on the computer and that it is not possible for anyone to decipher a Member's password details.

If Members wish to use their own lap-tops with a local ISP while abroad, they will first need to make some arrangement with a local ISP in the country they are visiting. The number dialled by a lap-top computer can readily be changed to allow access to an alternative ISP and PCD can advise hon. Members how to do this. The Information Committee will look at the possibility of providing (i) a list of local ISPs for as many countries as possible, and (ii) information on subscription services that facilitate global roaming.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Communications Directorate

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to his Answer of 18 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 850W, on House employees, what the duties are of the 69 full-time equivalent employees involved in communications. [180631]

Sir Archy Kirkwood: The staff of the Parliamentary Communications Directorate are responsible for a range of House-wide IT services, and are divided into three sections. Those in the Operations and Customer Services Section are responsible for the Parliamentary Network (which has approximately 5,500 user accounts), including network infrastructure, servers and common services such as email; telephony services (7000+ extensions), including the Operator Bureau (handling an average of 3,000 calls per day), voicemail and mobile communications; Members' computing support; the PCD Helpdesk (average 300 calls per day) and customer services.

Staff in the Planning and Programmes section provide project and programme management support; develop new IT services and technical standards, and manage business processes such as software licensing: The third section, Information Systems, manages and develops a number of key Parliamentary databases, as well as providing IT support to the Department of the Serjeant at Arms, the Office of the Clerk and others.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to his answer of 18 May 2004, to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mrs. Lawrence), *Official Report*, column 850W, on running costs, what factors underlie the increase in costs attributed to communications between 1995 and 2003. [180633]

Sir Archy Kirkwood: The bulk of the running costs, on average just under 90 per cent., are accounted for by expenditure on staff, so any change in staffing levels has a direct impact on the overall running costs. The change in the staffing levels of the Communications Directorate in the period 1995 to 2003 was influenced by a number of factors. These include:

the expansion of the pilot PDVN to a full Parliament-wide network;

the increase in the number of users and hence support they require;

improvements to the resilience of the network and associated underlying engineering support;

the central provision of equipment to Members;

the creation of the helpdesk and, latterly, extension of its opening hours; and,

more services being provided over the network for Members, Peers and Parliamentary departments and offices.

Early-day Motions

Mr. Steen: To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost of printing and administering early-day motions was in each of the last three parliamentary sessions. [180382]

Sir Archy Kirkwood: House of Commons printing and publishing charges are calculated in arrears by financial year and are therefore available only in this form. Figures covering the costs of early day motions, to the nearest £1,000, and for the four financial years completed under the present contractual arrangements, are given in the following table:

Financial year	£
2000–01	443,000
2001–02	338,000
2002–03	516,000
2003–04	573,000

Other costs associated with administering early day motions, such as editorial preparation and control, and electronic publishing, are not separately identifiable.

Environmental Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to his answer of 18 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 850W, who has responsibility for delivering improved environmental practice on the Parliamentary Estate. [180632]

Sir Archy Kirkwood: The Director of Estates is responsible for delivering improved environmental practice on the Parliamentary Estate, as recommended in a report by the consultants Urban Mines. This report will be placed in the Library in the next few days.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Active Communities Challenge

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses he estimates have allowed employees at least one day off for voluntary action in the local community as a result of the Active Communities Challenge launched by the Prime Minister in March 2000. [179583]

Fiona Mactaggart: Detailed information on the number of employers offering their employees one day off for voluntary action is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Airwave Scheme

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what he estimates the *(a)* cost of implementing and *(b)* number of masts in implementing the Airwave scheme nationwide will be. [179738]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The Airwave service contract includes all police forces in England, Wales and Scotland. Payments for each police force start from the date when the service becomes available. When the rollout is complete, it is estimated that the total annual cost of the core national service will be £156 million.

(b) The total number of masts will be of the order of 3,300. Over 3,000 of these masts are already in place.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Airwave has video technology; and whether it is utilised by police forces. [179739]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* Airwave can carry data signals as well as voice signals and can in principle transmit video pictures. No video applications have yet been developed for Airwave.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Airwave; and whether the scheme is on course to deliver the technology promised at its conception. [179740]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* Airwave is a successful programme that is on course to deliver the technology promised at its conception. It has already delivered modern voice communications to over 50,000 police users and provided them with high quality and secure digital communications and improved capacity and coverage. Some of the functionality will only be available when the national network has been fully rolled out and software upgrades have been implemented.

Asylum Seekers

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 760W, on asylum detainees (children), if he will break down the figures by removal centre. [176791]

Mr. Browne: The latest available information on the number of minors detained solely under Immigration Act powers is for 27 March 2004 and shows that 30 minors were detained at that date. A breakdown of the number detained in each removal centre is not available. Providing such a breakdown is contrary to National Statistics principles and protocols on confidentiality given the small numbers involved.

Families with children may be detained at Tinsley House, Dungavel and Oakington Reception Centre.

Mr. Coleman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the reasons for the recent change in the proportion of asylum seekers who claim asylum in this country. [179928]

Mr. Browne: A number of measures have been introduced recently to tackle the abuse of our asylum and immigration system while maintaining the protection given to genuine refugees. For example, we have introduced measures to ensure the integrity of our borders, tackle fraud, people trafficking and illegal working, restrict support for late applicants, and to remove in-country appeal rights for those making clearly unfounded claims. The Government consider that this package of measures has resulted in the fall in asylum intake since the peak of October 2002.

Mr. Coleman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of asylum seekers who were denied access to asylum support under section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 in the first quarter of 2004. [179932]

Mr. Browne: Section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 came into force on 8 January 2003, restricting the availability of National Asylum Support Service (NASS) support to those asylum seekers who make an asylum application as soon as reasonably practicable. From 17 December 2003 my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced that those who could give a credible account that their asylum claim was made within three days of arrival in the United Kingdom will normally be accepted as having applied as soon as reasonably practicable.

The eligibility for support under section 55 was considered by NASS for a total of 2,650 cases in the first quarter of 2004 (January to March 2004). The number of asylum seekers, excluding dependants, notified that they were ineligible for NASS support under section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 in the first quarter of 2004 was 890. Some applicants notified that they are ineligible for support under section 55 apply nevertheless and these are shown in the published statistics within the 'Invalid' support type category.

Information on the number of asylum seekers supported by NASS is published in the quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin, "Asylum Statistics United Kingdom", available from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Bristol Airport (Policing)

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budgeted cost to be borne by Avon and Somerset Constabulary for policing Bristol Airport in 2004–05 is; and what the direct contribution to be made by the Home Office as security expenditure is. [179313]

Mr. Blunkett *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* Avon and Somerset Police receives additional funding from a number of different funding streams for the purposes of policing at Bristol Airport. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to comment on specific levels of funding.

Cannabis

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are to conduct further research into the link between cannabis smoking and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [179330]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Office of Science and Technology, part of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The MRC does not normally commission research, but always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality and importance to health.

The MRC funds research into a wide range of diseases related to smoking. These include cancer, respiratory disorders, cardiovascular and circulatory disorders. The Council is not currently funding research on cannabis smoking and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Departmental Communications

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were employed in the Department to work in the communications field, and what the total expenditure on communications for the Department was, broken down by *(a)* Government Information and Communication Service staff and *(b)* other staff, broken down by (i) press officers, (ii) special advisors and (iii) others, in (A) 1994–95, (B) 1996–97, (C) 1997–98 and (D) 2001–02. [168675]

Fiona Mactaggart: The requested information on Government Information and Communication Service staff including Press Officers and other staff, and the total expenditure for those employed to work in the Communication and Research, Development and Statistics Directorates is as set out in the following tables:

Communication Service staff, press officers and other staff

	Communication Directorate (CD)				RDSD	CD and RDSD
Financial year	GICS (inc. press officers)	Press officers included in GICS total	Other	CD total	RDSD total	Total staff
1994–95	24	15	8	32	7	39
1996–97[1]	30	16	70	100	8	108
1997–98	23	13	65	88	9	97
2001–02	53	[3]35	100	[2]153	7	160

[1] Library and Internal Communications merged with the former Public Relations Branch to form the Communication Directorate.
[2] Direct Communications Unit, which includes the Customer Correspondence Service was formed during 2001–02.
[3] Expansion of the Home Office press office towards the end of 2000, followed an external consultant's review of its staffing and operation and recommended the creation of the Newsdesk so as to better meet the demands of the media. This improved efficiency from 'losing' in excess of 20 per cent. of the calls pre expansion, to a position where from June 2003 to June 2004, 91.8 per cent. of the 67,070 press calls received by the Newsdesk were answered. Added to which the Prison Service and Home Office press offices merged in May 2001

Total expenditure

£

Financial year	GICS (inc. press officers)	Press officers (included in GICS total)	Other	CT total	RDSD total	Total cost
1997–95	508,800	318,000	169,600	678,400	980,000	1,658,400
1996–97	859,014	369,000	1,343,220	2,202,234	755,000	2,957,234
1997–98	929,568	332,000	1,726,340	2,655,908	668,000	3,323,908
2001–02	3,028,899	1,000,000	3,555,665	6,584,564	553,000	7,137,564

Details of expenditure on communications staff beyond these two directorates is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

With regard to special advisers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 22 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 529W. Details of special advisers are published annually for the Government as a whole.

Departmental IT Equipment

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has received about *(a)* attempts to sell former Home Office servers on E-bay and *(b)* police investigations into these attempts. [179341]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office Information Technology Services supplier (Fujitsu) informed the

Home Office on 6 May 2004 that equipment owned by them, but previously located on Home Office premises, had been stolen and subsequently assembled into two servers which were sold by an employee of the company. Police investigations were instituted. The equipment has been recovered. The incident continues to be the subject of police inquiries.

We do not believe that Home Office information has been compromised in any way but the equipment recovered is being tested to confirm this.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [179504]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* As at 16 June 2004, the Prison Service had seven empty homes out of a total of 497. These are located in Worcestershire, Kent and London.

All homes, whether empty or occupied are under constant review. Generally homes which become vacant are not re-let, but sold on the open market. Consideration is being given to the reproduction and extension of a scheme under which eligible occupiers are able to buy their homes. However, due to recruitment and retention problems in London and the South East, accommodation in these areas is being retained and in some cases converted for multiple occupation. These properties are re-let on a short-term basis, which will not normally exceed multiples of six months.

Forcible Removals

Mr. Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been removed from the UK as a result of enforcement action in each year since 1979, broken down by nationality. [177094]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 8 June 2004]:* Information on the number of people removed from the UK as a result of enforcement action in each year from 1979 to 2002 (the latest year for which figures are available) is shown in the table. Information on the nationalities of those removed is not available.

Persons removed from the United Kingdom as a result of enforcement action[1,2,3]

	Number
1979	1,416
1980	1,938
1981	1,601
1982	1,496
1983	1,372
1984	1,559
1985	1,741
1986	1,960
1987	2,660
1988	3,700
1989	4,540
1990	4,280
1991	5,800
1992	6,210
1993	6,080
1994	5,210
1995	5,080
1996	5,460
1997	6,610
1998	7,315
1999[4]	6,440
2000[4]	7,820
2001[4]	10,290
2002[4,5]	14,205

[1] Under sections 3(5), 3(6) and 33(1) of the Immigration Act 1971,or under section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

[2] Includes persons departing "voluntarily" after enforcement action had been initiated against them.

[3] Excludes dependants of asylum seekers.

[4] Excludes people departing under the Assisted Voluntary Return programmes run by the international organisation for migration.

[5] Provisional figures.

The number of people removed from the UK in 2003 as a result of enforcement action is due to be published in August in the Home Office statistical bulletin, "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2003", on the Home Office website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Guantanamo Bay

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates representatives of his Department visited British nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay; whether he has received adverse reports on the welfare of detainees or allegations of ill-treatment; what representations he made on behalf of the prisoners; and what action he took to make his concerns known to relatives or legal representatives of those detained. [179814]

Mr. Blunkett: No officials from the Home Office have visited the British nationals detained in Guantanamo Bay. I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 8 June 2004 in reply to his question no 177590.

Illegal Workers

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal workers have been reported through the Working in the UK website; and what action was taken as a result. [180115]

Mr. Browne: The Working in the UK website advises a person who wishes to report an illegal worker to write to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) in Croydon with full details. Such letters are then logged and forwarded to the appropriate Immigration Service enforcement office where the information will be investigated. No distinction is made between letters prompted by the Working in the UK website and other allegations received in writing by the IND. As a large number of these communications are anonymous and contain only details of the illegal worker it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for how many came as a result of the website.

Allegations are assessed by Immigration Service intelligence officers and considered for an operational enforcement response. Factors that are considered will be the reliability and currency of the information, the number of suspected offenders, available resources and local priorities. All allegations are considered on their individual merits.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether all employers will need biometric readers to establish whether a potential employee is attempting to work illegally. [177922]

Mr. Browne: The draft Identity Cards Bill imposes no regulations to require employers to undertake any specific checks on identity cards, or perform any checks over and above those imposed under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996. The Government will not consider laying new orders under this Act to take account of the identity cards scheme until closer to the date of implementation of the scheme.

Identity cards would provide one document with which employers are familiar. Therefore the checks would be simpler and less time-consuming.

Employers will need to weigh up the costs, risks and benefits of changing current practices to incorporate the use of identity cards, according to their circumstances.

The Government will continue its discussions with employers' organisations and trade unions to ensure that employers' needs are taken into account during the design of the scheme.

Ministerial Visits

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the travel costs incurred *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* by each Minister within his Department, for each of the last 10 years. [175642]

Fiona Mactaggart: Travel costs for the core Home Office have only been held centrally since 1996 totals as follows:

	Total (£)
1996	5,188,941.79
1997	5,122,697.13
1998	4,157,597.49
1999	4,628,434.97
2000	5,642,473.06
2001	8,425,728.71
2002	11,088,054.84
2003	16,856,024.14

The marked increases in travel costs since 2001 can be largely attributed to changes in strategy within the Immigration and Nationality Directorate where increased staff numbers and the need to travel as a result of new policy initiatives and targets for improved IND performance. Other contributing factors have been related to providing advice to the organisers of the 2002 Football World Cup in Japan and Euro 2004 in Portugal and the creation of new units to support the police reform agenda.

In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and in some cases will no longer be held. Information for 2003–04 will be published in due course.

Detailed information for all Ministers in respect of UK travel is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to publish the business case for the establishment of the National Offender Management Service. [178801]

Paul Goggins: The case for the establishment of the National Offender Management Service was outlined in Patrick Carter's independent report 'Managing Offenders- Reducing Crime' published along with the Government response 'Reducing Crime-Changing Lives' on 6 January 2004.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the National Offender Management Service implementation teams will present him with an outline of how they believe the new service will *(a)* be structured and *(b)* operate. [163940]

Paul Goggins: A proposed structure for the National Offender Management Service and details on proposals for its operation were published on 17 May 2004. We are currently consulting with staff, unions and other stakeholders on these proposals. These are contained in the document entitled "National Offender Management Service Organisational Design a Consultation Document" which is available from the Library.

Overturned Convictions

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were convicted by a criminal court in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1990, *(c)* 1995 and *(d)* 2000; and how many and what percentage of convictions were subsequently overturned. [173107]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of offenders found guilty at all courts and the numbers of appeals against conviction or sentence is provided in the table. For those appeals allowed at the Crown court, it is not possible from the data held by the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) to separate appeals against conviction from appeals against sentence. The table shows figures for 1986, as figures on appeals are not available for 1985.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts, the number of appeals allowed at the Crown court and Court of Appeal and the percentage of convictions where appeal against conviction or sentence was allowed, England and Wales 1986, 1990, 1995 and 2000

	1986	1990	1995	2000
Offenders found guilty[1]	1,894,209	1,514,605	1,354,584	[2]1,423,702
Number of appeals allowed at the Crown court against conviction or sentence[3]	3,718	4,693	8,064	3,090
Number of appeals allowed at the Court of Appeal against conviction[3]	—	256	253	150
Proportion of convictions where appeal against conviction or sentence was allowed[4] (%)	—	0.3	0.6	0.2

[1] These figures are on the principal offence basis and come from the Home Office Court Proceeding database.
[2] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.
[3] Data provided by DCA.
[4] Based on the proportion of offenders found guilty where the appeal against conviction or sentence was allowed.

Paedophilia

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been convicted on charges related to paedophilia in each of the last 10 years. [164043]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 26 March 2004]*: There is no definitive list of offences relating to paedophilia. The available information, relating to males and females found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children in England and Wales for the years 1993 to 2002 is shown in the table. The information relates only to those offences where the age of the victim is defined by the legislation. There will be other sexual offences that may have involved children.

Statistics on court proceedings for 2003 will be published in the Autumn.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of sexual offences etc. against young people where the age of victim is identified by the offence, 1993 to 2002[1]

England and Wales

Offence	*Sex*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Total for England and Wales	M	2,212	2,380	2,614	2,895	2,988	2,932	2,924	2,746	2,724	3,038
	F	29	21	22	21	23	26	38	28	26	34
	T	2,241	2,401	2,636	2,916	3,011	2,958	2,962	2,774	2,750	3,072

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Passports

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of passports in circulation which are *(a)* forged and *(b)* modified in order to serve as false identification. [180164]

Mr. Browne: Given the nature of the problem it is difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy how many false passports (or other travel documents in lieu of passports) of British or foreign origin are in circulation either in the UK or globally. The fraudulent use of travel documentation (including forged or counterfeit visas) is a serious global problem. The Immigration and Nationality Directorate's National Document Fraud Unit (NDFU) has the lead role in monitoring and combating this. The NDFU is recognised both at home and abroad as a leader in this field and works closely with its counterparts in other countries to counter this type of fraud.

The NDFU has a comprehensive brief of conducting expert forensic level examinations of suspect documents, in delivering training programmes for the Immigration Service and other agencies in document fraud detection and in collation and dissemination of information about suspect documents and types of document abuse. Of the 7,985 abused travel documents of all nationalities detected at UK arrival controls in 2003, forged or altered documents represented 52 per cent. of the total. Completely counterfeit documents amounted to 15 per cent. whereas 27 per cent. of the total were in the hands of impostors. 724 abused documents were encountered in-country by immigration enforcement officers and a further 837 forged, counterfeit or fraudulently obtained documents were submitted to the Home Office with requests for leave to remain.

The problem of identity fraud within the United Kingdom involving documents from all countries is one which affects not just the Home Office. For example, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency referred 1,071 suspect travel documents to the NDFU during 2003 of which 74 per cent. were found to be false or to contain false endorsements. Local offices of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) referred 1,410 documents to that department's National Identity Fraud Unit of which 541 were found to be false. DWP referred 114 documents to the National Document Fraud Unit for an expert opinion. During the year 33,551 passengers were denied boarding by airlines (often after reference to members of the UK Airline Liaison Officer network). Many of these decisions were because the passengers held suspect documentation.

The NDFU makes a significant contribution to work being carried out internationally in the EU, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and G8 to disrupt the work of forgers by enhancement of international security safeguards and standards, including those for biometrics, for travel documents and their issuing processes. It also works closely with travel document issuing agencies in order to combat identity fraud and facilitate the operation of border controls.

Prisoner Escapes

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have escaped from *(a)* privately and *(b)* publicly run prisons in each of the last three years. [177845]

Paul Goggins: The escape data sought is set out in the following tables. A prisoner is regarded as having escaped if he or she unlawfully gains his or her liberty by breaching the secure perimeter of a closed prison or when he or she is able to pass beyond the control of escorting prison staff. The data does not include instances where prisoners were recaptured within 15 minutes and no further offence was committed.

Privately operated prisons

	Number of escapes from prisons	Number of escapes from prison staff escort	Total
2001–02	3	3	6
2002–03	Nil	Nil	Nil
2003–04	Nil	1	1

Public prisons

	Number of escapes from prisons	Number of escapes from prison staff escort	Total
2001–02	12	8	20
2002–03	5	12	17
2003–04	10	5	15

Prisoners (Slopping Out)

Mr. Stinchcombe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any prisoners in England and Wales are having to adopt the practice of slopping out. [171859]

Paul Goggins: This practice is not in place anywhere except when there are electronic system failures, or where staff operating manual night unlocking are called upon to respond to unforeseen incidents.

Prisons (Assaults on Prisoners)

Mrs. Claire Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have been assaulted in *(a)* privately and *(b)* publicly run prisons in each of the last three years. [177848]

Paul Goggins: The data collected by the Prison Service is an overall total for assaults within each prison, it does not breakdown assaults on individual prisoners or staff. Our current Key Performance Indicator for Serious Assaults, which offers a better indication of prisoner violence, has been given. However, this does not identify cases of multiple or repeat assault on individual prisoners.

Contracted prisons (privately operated)

	Total number of assaults	Number of serious assaults on prisoners	Rate of serious assaults as a proportion of the prison population (percentage)
2001–02	1,434	48	0.8
2002–03	1,544	55	0.8
2003–04	1,501	90	1.3

Public Prisons

	Total number of assaults	Number of serious assaults on prisoners	Rate of serious assaults as a proportion of the prison population (percentage)
2001–02	9,123	458	0.7
2002–03	9,847	580	0.9
2003–04	10,038	717	1.1

Population pressures and the increase in the number of violent offenders have an impact on the levels of violence in prison.

Although serious assaults were adopted as a new Key Performance Indicator for 2003–04, the data was collected in previous years as additional information. The data given relating to the two previous years is thus consistent.

Reducing violence, in all its forms, is fundamental to the Prison Service objectives and to the resettlement and rehabilitation agenda. In May 2004, the Prison Service's Violence Reduction Strategy was launched. It is now mandatory for public prisons to develop, implement (by November 2004) and maintain a local violence reduction strategy, which will aim to promote a safe and healthy prison environment and foster a culture of non-violence.

While not applying directly to contracted prisons, the Violence Reduction Strategy is used as a basis of best practice which has enabled them to develop their own strategies to reduce serious assaults. Compliance with Health and Safety legislation is a requirement.

Probation Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Government will ensure that there is no fall in standards as a result of the privatisation of probation services. [175228]

Paul Goggins: The Government has not proposed the privatisation of the Probation Service. What we have proposed is the introduction of contestability across correctional services which is key to extending and enhancing services to offenders in order to obtain the best value for money for tax payers. We want the most effective custodial and community sentences possible, no matter who delivers them. Contestability will encourage innovation, improve choice and ensure that the standards set by the probation service are built upon under the new service.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultative process has taken place with regard to the privatisation of probation services. [175229]

Paul Goggins: The Government has not proposed the privatisation of the Probation Service. What we have proposed is the introduction of contestability across correctional services which is key to extending and enhancing services to offenders in order to obtain the best value for money for tax payers. We want the most effective custodial and community sentences possible no matter who delivers them.

We are currently engaging in an ongoing consultation with staff, unions and other key stakeholders on the implementation and structure of the National Offender Management Service. The proposed structure on which we are consulting is outlined in the document 'National Offender Management Service-Organisational Design'. Copies of which are available from the House Library.

Psychological Coercive Techniques

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether chartered psychologists *(a)* have assisted in the past and *(b)* are assisting (i) the security services, (ii) the police and (iii) his Department's officials in the use or development of psychological coercive techniques; [179168]

(2) to what extent *(a)* the UK security services, *(b)* the police and *(c)* his Department's officials (i) have used and (ii) currently use psychological coercive techniques during their training. [179169]

Mr. Blunkett: No use is made of such techniques.

Seaports/Airports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* seaports and *(b)* airports have a dedicated Special Branch presence. [177171]

Mr. Blunkett: The effective policing of sea and airports is the responsibility of the relevant Chief Constable. Airport security was the subject of a comprehensive review by Sir John Wheeler in 2002. Implementation of his findings is strengthening security across the board. Following his recommendation, the National Co-ordinator for Ports Policing (NCPP) has taken on a wider role to encompass the co-ordination of both uniform and Special Branch ports policing.

The NCPP provides a strategic overview of the requirements of port security and ensures that there is effective co-operation between forces. This covers the whole range of ports policing from major air and sea ports to a small ports policing strategy.

The NCPP also provides advice to forces on the deployment of officers at ports but it would not be appropriate to publish this information.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to facilitate the processing of seasonal agricultural workers scheme visas from *(a)* Romania, *(b)* Bulgaria and *(c)* Moldova for May and June. [168379]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 28 April 2004]*: On 30 March 2004we suspended the processing of visa applications at the embassies in Bulgaria and Romania for managed migration entry routes, including the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme (SAWS). On 19 May 2004 I announced that this suspension was being lifted for most entry routes, including SAWS, and the processing of visa applications for those wishing to enter the UK under the SAWS is now taking place as normal.

The suspension of visa processing did not impact on Moldovans directly except that they were unable to apply for visas in Sofia and Bucharest to enter the UK under the SAWS. In the absence of a British visa post in Moldova to which they could apply they had the option to apply for a visa in either Kiev or Budapest.

Secondments to the Home Office and Agencies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department and its agencies were seconded from the *(a)* private and *(b)* academic sector in each of the last three years. [174820]

Fiona Mactaggart: Secondments are part of the Interchange initiative, which promotes the exchange of people and good practice between the Civil Service and other organisations—public, private and voluntary. Interchange provides opportunities for civil servants to learn new skills, widen their experience and develop ideas. It also brings in skills and experiences from other sectors.

Secondments of less than three months' duration are not recorded. Statistics for the financial year 2003–04 are not yet available. The table shows the number of staff brought in to the Home Office from the private and academic sectors during the last three years for which statistics are available.

Financial Year	*Private Sector*	*Academic Sector*
2000–01	2	0
2001–02	2	2
2002–03	2	2

Sickness Absence

Denzil Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days were lost in his Department through sickness absence in each of the three latest years for which figures are available. [178268]

Fiona Mactaggart: The figures from the centrally managed Home Office and the agencies, Forensic Science Service, United Kingdom Passport Service and Public Sector Prison Service Agency are in the following table:

Home Department—Sickness analysis for three latest years

	Workdays lost to sickness			
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*Notes*
1. Centrally managed Home Office				Reports run for previous 12 months from November 2002, June 2003 and April 2004
i. IND	127,440	117,270	124,589	
ii. non-IND	32,917	31,946	31,043	
2. UK Passport Service	34,415	32,806	13,591	Reports in 2002 and 2003 are based on full calendar years; 2004 is based on five months

Home Department—Sickness analysis for three latest years

	Workdays lost to sickness			
	2002	2003	2004	Notes
3. Forensic Science Service	10,093	23,190	9,087	Reports in 2002 and 2004 are based on five months; 2003 is based on full calendar year
4. Public Sector Prisons	614,150	668,337	628,623	Reports based on financial years, using 225 working days and the average staff in post for year

Somalia

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether individuals removed from the UK with the intention of returning them to Somalia *(a)* have reached Somalia and *(b)* are being held in transit in (i) Dubai and (ii) elsewhere. [179911]

Mr. Browne: Estimates of the number of Somali nationals who had sought asylum at some stage and were removed from the UK between January 2001 and March 2004 are shown in the table. These figures include persons departing 'voluntarily' after the initiation of enforcement action against them, and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Returns Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration.

Information on the destination of these removals is not available except by examination of individual case-files at disproportionate cost.

There are no individuals currently being held in transit in Dubai or elsewhere.

Removals and voluntary departures1of asylum applicants, excluding dependants, nationals of Somalia, January 2001[1] to March 2004[2]

2001(E)	25
2002(P)(E)	50
2003 (P)(E)	50
January to March (P)	40

[1] Includes persons departing voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration, and removals on safe third country grounds.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
(E) Data have been estimated.
(P) Provisional figures.

Substance Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners received *(a)* methadone, *(b)* subutex and *(c)* naltraxone for substance misuse in the last month for which figures are available. [180298]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 24 June 2004]*: The Prison Service does not routinely collect this information. It estimates that naltrexone, an abstinence-based treatment, is currently available in around fifty establishments for men and one for women. Methadone maintenance is available in the majority of establishments for women but is not yet widely used in men's prisons.

Subutex (buprenorphine) is included in the treatment protocols developed in conjunction with the National Health Service at eight establishments for men. Every establishment for women has the capacity to prescribe subutex but few do so at present because methadone is considered to meet most prisoners' needs. Subutex would, however, be made available to any woman already being prescribed it when received into custody.

Terrorism

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to tackle the problem of terrorism. [177835]

Mr. Blunkett: The UK has some of the most developed and sophisticated anti-terrorism legislation in the world. The Terrorism Act 2000 re-enacted and made permanent powers which had developed over many years to deal with these threats and also established a framework to deal with international terrorism. Following the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001 the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act has toughened counter-terrorism legislation by giving the police more powers to support their work in the fight against terrorism, proscribed new terrorist organisations and frozen their assets. We have strengthened our immigration provisions to ensure that those who present a security risk cannot hide behind refugee protections and we have tightened port, airport and border security.

As I outlined in my statement of 25 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 41WS, we have also reassessed and strengthened our contingency plans to ensure that the UK is in the best position to respond, react and recover from any single or multiple terrorist incident, including incidents involving the use of chemical, biological or radiological materials. Our new Civil Contingencies Bill will further improve the UK's ability to deal with the consequences of a major disruptive incident by setting out clear responsibilities to ensure that front line responders can deal with a range of emergencies.

We have also substantially increased funding to the Security Service to boost their capacity to collect, analyse and act on information and intelligence. The number of Security Service staff will increase by 50 per cent. over the next few years and an additional £15 million has been allocated to police special branches in order to increase their surveillance and intelligence gathering capabilities.

UK Citizens (Marriage)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK citizens married a foreigner where the couple settled in the UK in each year since 1994. [176282]

Mr. Browne: The latest available published statistics relating to the number of grants of settlement on the basis of marriage to a British citizen or other person

already settled in the UK are given in the table. The data do not include EEA nationals or spouses of EEA nationals who are exercising family member status.

Table 1: Grants of settlement on the basis of marriage, excluding EEA nationals, 1994–2002—United Kingdom

Number of persons

	Category of grant	
	Husbands[2]	Wives[2]
1994[1]	11,670	14,920
1995[1]	12,230	17,010
1996[1]	11,900	17,570
1997[1]	10,700	16,160
1998[1]	13,010	18,390
1999	14,565	19,945
2000	14,460	24,100
2001	16,850	26,590
2002	15,470	24,930

[1] Includes a small number of EEA nationals.
[2] Data from 1997 include unmarried partners.

The latest published data on settlement in the United Kingdom are published in the Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2002" (Cm6053), available from the Library and from the Home Office website http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hobpubs1.html. The 2003 edition is due to be published later this year.

TREASURY

Correspondence

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 18 February, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Withington, on behalf of his constituent Ms Dawn Thomas. [180704]

Dawn Primarolo: The Tax Credit Office called Mr. Bradley's offices around 20 April 2004 in response to his letter; they wrote to Mr. Bradley on 24 June 2004.

Gershon Review

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will implement the findings of the Gershon Review in full; [180534]

(2) when the Gershon Review will be published in full. [180538]

Mr. Boateng: Budget 2004 announced that John Oughton, Chief Executive of the Office of Government Commerce, will be responsible for overall implementation of agreed efficiency programmes. Further announcements on the outcome of Sir Peter Gershon's Efficiency Review will be made at the Spending Review.

Research and Development (Tax Incentives)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Treasury allocated to the marketing of *(a)* research and development tax credits and *(b)* research and development tax allowances for each year between 2000 and 2003; and what the allocation is for 2004 to 2008. [180407]

Dawn Primarolo: The Inland Revenue is responsible for the operation of the research and development tax credit and research and development allowance.

Generally, spending by the Inland Revenue on marketing these reliefs is met out of the Revenue's general running costs and thus is not separately identifiable. However in 2002–3 there was a marketing campaign for the research and development tax credit scheme. The costs of this campaign are separately identifiable and totalled £338,900, including agency fees and VAT.

STEPS Agreement

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 835W, to the hon. Member for Llanelli (Denzil Davies), on the STEPS Agreement, if he will set out the sources of the external commercial, legal and financial advice; and what the estimated total payments were over the life of the contract to Mapeley STEPS. [181013]

Dawn Primarolo: The sources of the external commercial, legal and financial advice given in the answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 835W, to the hon. Member for Llanelli (Denzil Davies), on the STEPS Agreement, are:

GVA Grimley
Rogers Chapman
Beachcroft Wansboroughs
Bude Nathan Iwanier Solicitors
Burness Solicitors
Deloitte and Touche
Dodds Brown Commercial
Donaldsons
Drivers Jonas
DTZ Debenham Te Leung
Evolve
Government Actuaries Department
Hewitt Bacon and Woodrow Ltd.
Hobson Audley Hopkins and Wood
Howard Jenkins Property Consultancy
Howell Brooks Chartered Surveyors
Kenmore South Ltd.
Lambert Smith Hampton
Land Securities Plc
Lovells
Matrix Data Ltd.
Ernst and Young
Partnerships UK Plc
Pinsent Curtis Biddle
Unex Investment Trust
Wragge and Co.
ACAS London Eastern and Southern
BWA Facilities Consultancy
Building Research Establishment
Clifford Chance
David Parrat Associates

Gerald Eve
Insignia Richard Ellis
McGregor Donald
NM Rothschild and Sons
TME Torpy
Tughan and Co. Solicitors
Xansa UK Ltd.
Cripps Harries Hall
Ramsdens Chartered Surveyors
Weatherall Green and Smith
Faithful and Gould

The Departments make payments to Mapeley STEPS Contractor Ltd. in return for operating the estate and taking responsibility for rental and other costs. The Departments pay Mapeley STEPS Contractor Ltd. an annual average charge of £170 million for serviced accommodation, equating to some £1,500 million over the life of the contract. In addition, the Departments reimburse Mapeley STEPS Contractor Ltd. for other pass through costs such as for utilities and works carried out on behalf of the Departments.

UK Foreign Direct Investment

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of *(a)* outward and *(b)* inward UK foreign direct investment was in each year since 1996. [180634]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. James Arbuthnot, dated 28 June 2004:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about the level of outward and inward UK Foreign Direct Investment in each year since 1996. (180634)

The results of the annual surveys into Foreign Direct Investment are published in the Business Monitor MA4 "Foreign Direct Investment", which is available on the National Statistics website. The latest information available is for the year 2002.

The figures for the period 1996–2002 are shown in the table below. These are taken from Table 1.2 of the above publication, which provides more detail on the components of the investment positions.

Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) international investment positions UK, 1996–2002

£ million

Year	*Outward—Total UK FDI international investment position abroad*[1]	*Inward—Total foreign FDI international investment position in the UK*[1]
1996	194,601	134,654
1997	218,162	152,956
1998	293,581	202,817
1999	424,660	238,274
2000	601,692	293,949
2001	599,628	349,342
2002	571,687	352,562

[1] Position at end of each year shown

Source:
ONS Business Monitor MA4: Foreign Direct Investment 2002

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much *(a)* monetary aid and *(b)* aid in kind has been pledged unilaterally and through the EU by (i) the UK Government and (ii) the Governments of each of the other EU members to aid in the preparations for elections in Afghanistan; through what agencies delivery has been planned; and if he will make a statement; [180540]

(2) how much *(a)* monetary aid and *(b)* aid in kind has been delivered by (i) the EU and (ii) the UK Government to the interim administration of Afghanistan for the preparations of elections; what the projected schedule for transfer of funds is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180568]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: EU member countries have pledged/contributed monetary aid towards the electoral process in Afghanistan. Donors have channelled their resources through the United Nations (UN), to assist the Afghanistan Transitional Administration with the planning and implementation of elections.

The latest update from the UN, on pledges made by EU member countries to support the Afghan election process, is as follows:

$

Donor	*Voter registration contribution*	*Electoral pledges/ contributions*
UK	18,911,347	5,000,000
Germany	2,162,454	5,880,000
Italy	6,242,197	6,000,000
Denmark	2,354,559	1,515,000
Norway	2,219,271	746,000
Sweden	1,298,701	1,300,000
Netherlands	—	2,400,000
Finland	1,248,439	1,200,000
Belgium	1,243,781	—
Ireland	—	960,000
EC	11,799,884	10,800,000

DFID is working closely with partner countries, to ensure that all necessary funding is in place to allow the election to take place in September.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on assistance and support to Afghanistan in preparation for the September elections. [180739]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The UK was one of the first countries to offer support to the current electoral process in Afghanistan and contributed £10.4 million last financial year to help fund voter registration. £500,000 was also targeted at a civic education project, to enhance public understanding of the election process and encourage greater participation.

This year DFID has already contributed $5 million towards the cost of elections, and expect to make a similar size contribution in the near future. DFID is working closely with partner countries to ensure that all necessary funding is in place to allow the elections to take place in September.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced people in the eastern area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [180439]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) of 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1483–84W.

GM Food

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether his Department provides funding to GM-related initiatives under the auspices of the *(a)* World Food Programme and *(b)* UN Food and Agriculture Organisation; [180264]

(2) what his Department's policy is on genetically modified food aid for developing countries; [180260]

(3) from which African Governments he has received representations *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing (i) GM food aid, (ii) genetically modified organisms and (iii) GM crops; [180262]

(4) what representations he has received in the past year *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing the use of GM technology as a means of helping to meet UN Millennium Development Goal number 1 Target 2, to halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, broken down by type of representation; [180265]

(5) which African Governments receiving UK development aid have signed the Biosafety Protocol; [180263]

(6) what representations he has received from *(a)* the Zambian Government, *(b)* non-governmental organisations operating in Zambia, *(c)* private corporations, *(d)* the World Food Programme, *(e)* the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and *(f)* other stakeholders concerning (i) GM food aid and (ii) GM crops for developing countries in the past three years. [180261]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: As the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development, I regularly receive representations about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and developing countries. Some representations, in the form of letters from the public, letters from non-government organisations or letters from Members of Parliament on behalf of constituents, discuss the role of GMOs in eliminating world hunger. GM technology will not in itself solve the problem of world hunger. But when managed responsibly, used safely and effectively, and applied to the crops important for poor people, it can be used to promote development and reduce poverty.

The UK Government supports the implementation of international legislation to rigorously assess and manage the risks involved in the use of GMOs and GM technology. The Department for International Development (DFID) has worked with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and other Government Departments to achieve a successful conclusion to negotiations to the Biosafety Protocol. This will help both developed and developing countries make informed decisions on the transboundary movement (including import and export) of GMOs. With its strong precautionary approach, the Protocol will help to ensure that developing countries are not disadvantaged by the development of GM technologies. 23 African Governments receiving UK development aid have signed the Protocol. The top three African bilateral aid recipients in 2002–03 were Uganda (£55 million), Malawi (£52 million) and Kenya (£45 million). These countries signed the Protocol in May 2000.

DFID's approach to food aid is guided by the following principles:

Recipient Governments should be given adequate information on the type of food they receive and its characteristics, including whether genetically modified;

Recipient Governments should be allowed to decide on its acceptability; and

Donors should accept the decisions of recipients and accommodate them as far as possible. For example, if milled cereals are preferred to whole grain (to avoid the risk of GM grain being used as seed), then this should be arranged for.

The issue of GM technology arises regularly in discussions on food, agriculture and trade in Africa, to which DFID is party. Some Governments, such as Zambia and Angola, are opposed to GMOs. Others, such as South Africa and Uganda, have approved GM crops for planting and consumption. The New Partnership for African Development (Nepad) and Africa Union have both issued statements supporting the use of GM technology to promote agriculture and reduce hunger.

In 2002, DFID's offices in Malawi and Zambia were involved in discussions with the World Food Programme and the respective Governments about the acceptance of food aid containing genetically modified material. In Malawi, the Government proposed that GM maize be milled before distribution. DFID and other donors discussed how to do this with minimum delay in distribution. In Zimbabwe DFID officials supported the World Food Programme in negotiations with the Government over the acceptance of such food aid but had no direct contact with the Government. The former Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, spoke and wrote to President Mwanawasa of Zambia on this issue, and DFID hosted a fact finding visit for Zambian scientists to the UK on 23 and 24 September 2002 to meet representatives from Government, the private sector and civil society. The Zambian scientists recommended to the Zambian Government that it should reject GM food aid and the planting of GM crops in Zambia.

In Zambia, DFID has had representations from a number of non-government organisations operating there. They have expressed a range of views about (i) GM food aid, and (ii) the wider issue of GM crops. The main organisations were the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR), CARE and CAFOD. JCTR published a report on (ii). The remaining representations were informal and concerned humanitarian supplies, but did not take a public position on either (i) or (ii) in Zambia. All representations upheld the key principle that Governments and their people should be supported to make informed decisions on both issues. This principle continues to inform the approach of DFID. The UK Government has received no representations on GM

food aid or GM crops from the World Food Programme (WFP) nor the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The World Food Programme does not conduct GM-related initiatives. The World Food Programme does, however, receive significant in-kind contributions of food aid containing GM materials. It maintains a neutral position on the matter of GM food donations, and strictly respects the decision of potential recipient Governments whether or not to receive food that may contain GM materials. It is not possible to obtain precise data on the extent to which in-kind donations to the World Food Programme are GM. In part this is because testing for GM content is not called for under any existing Codex Alimentarius or other international agreement, nor is there any agreement on the GM content below which a shipment may be classified as GM-free. UK cash contributions to the World Food Programme operations have inevitably supported the delivery of GM foods to willing recipient Governments, but it is not possible to identify to what extent.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) uses the resources made available through its Regular Budget, which include the financial contribution from the UK and the rich technical expertise and experience of UK nationals in scientific and technical advancements and related institutional and policy issues, to promote sustainable agriculture for eliminating hunger and poverty. In relation to GMOs, its initiatives are directed at collecting, analysing and disseminating information. Examples include the ecological and human health effects of GM crops and GM food; providing a neutral forum through which its member countries can agree international standards (for example, the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted principles of risk analysis and guidelines for food safety assessment of GM food in 2003, and the International Plant Protection Convention recently adopted guidelines for determining if a living modified organism poses a hazard to plants); and, on request, and technical capacities for GMO detection, biosafety and risk assessment. The Food and Agriculture Organisation does not provide financial assistance to countries for the development of GMOs.

Haiti

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who will be representing the British Government at the International Donors' Conference for Haiti in July. [180359]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The UK will finalise its attendance at the International Donors' Conference in Washington DC on 19–20 July when the official invitation and agenda papers are received. These are expected shortly.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what policies the United Kingdom will be advocating at the July International Donors' Conference for Haiti. [180360]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The donor conference on Haiti, due to take place in Washington DC on 19–20 July, will consider the Interim Co-operation Framework recently completed under the leadership of the Interim Government of Haiti. This sets out a detailed assessment of Haiti's development needs. The United Kingdom will take a keen interest in the response of the development agencies to the Framework, and in particular how the needs of the large number of poor Haitians are addressed. DFID will also want to be assured that there is a clearly defined process leading from this initial needs assessment, to the production of a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to urge the World Bank to support the Haitian Government in implementing economic policies that benefit poor rural communities. [180361]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: As a significant shareholder, the UK takes a keen interest in the policies and programmes of the World Bank, including for countries in the Caribbean. On Haiti, DFID has had a number of policy discussions with Bank staff about its future.

DFID understands that the Bank senior management will very shortly be asked to agree grant finance for Haiti from a Trust Fund. The Bank is also designing a programme of substantial confessional lending to Haiti. DFID welcomes this indication of the Bank's commitment to supporting development in the country.

The World Bank will be a key participant in (and co-host of) the forthcoming international donor conference in Washington DC on 19–20 July, which will consider the Interim Government of Haiti's Interim Co-operation Framework. The UK will attend the Conference, and will continue to engage with the World Bank and other agencies to promote policies and programmes that will help poor communities in Haiti.

Multilateral Institutions

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms are used to monitor the efficiency of departmental aid channelled through multilateral institutions; and if he will make a statement. [180597]

Hilary Benn: DFID has developed and is using a new objective, evidence based system for assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of multilateral institutions. The approach focuses on the organisational systems that enable multilaterals to achieve results on the ground in poor countries. This includes an assessment of whether multilateral agencies have internal systems to ensure that their own financing and allocation systems are driven by results and achieving the millennium development goals. DFID is applying the system to 26 multilateral organisations.

Zimbabwe

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the impact on food security in Zimbabwe next year of the lack of planting of wheat in the recent planting season. [180667]

Hilary Benn: Estimates indicate that less than 30,000 hectares of wheat have been planted and much of this has been planted late. This might produce a total of 100,000MT compared with a requirement of

400,000MT. The balance will have to be imported and could cost upwards of US$75 million depending on world market prices and transport costs.

WALES

NHS Statistics

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the *(a)* health expenditure, *(b)* hospital activity and *(c)* finished consultant episodes in the NHS in Wales in each year since 1999. [175534]

Mr. Touhig: I will answer this question in three parts:

(a) Health expenditure in Wales since 1999, as per the audited Health Authority accounts, are listed in the table below:

£ billion

Financial Year	*Amount*
1999–2000	2.649
2000–01	2.880
2001–02	3.144
2002–03	3.450

(b) Information on the number of patients treated as inpatients or seen as out patients in Welsh hospitals is recorded in the table below. This data does not include day cases, nor some other types of hospital activity that is undertaken by other professionals such as physiotherapists.

Financial Year	*Inpatients*	*Outpatients*
1999–2000	515,103	2,706,183
2000–01	513,757	2,736,811
2001–02	509,355	2,761,906
2002–03	492,971	2,842,526

Source:
Quarterly Statistics, issued by Statistical Directorate, National Assembly for Wales

(c) The figures below relate to a count of Finished Consultancy Episodes for any patient who has been treated in Wales.

Year	*Number*
1999	702,008
2000	708,447
2001	714,960
2002	688,100
2003	700,795

Source:
Patient Episode Database Wales (PEDW)

TRANSPORT

British Transport Police

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money has been spent on British Transport Police for the North West in each of the last five years. [180721]

Mr. McNulty: The following figures have been provided by the British Transport Police:

	£
1999–2000	11,368,672
2000–01	11,525,353
2001–02	10,688,983
2002–03	10,857,192
2003–04	11,361,600

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many police officers were employed by the British Transport Police on *(a)* overground policing and *(b)* underground policing on 31 March; and how many are currently employed. [181005]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows.

	Overground	*Underground*
31 March 2004	1,709	550
24 June 2004	1,713	556

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the December 2002 revaluation of the British Transport Police Pension Fund was announced; when it was communicated to his Department; and when it was made known to Ministers. [181006]

Mr. McNulty: The draft results of the 31 December 2002 valuation were made known to the corporate pension Trustee, the Fund's Management Committee and the SRA in June 2003. The SRA informed the Department at the same time. The final results were made publicly available after the report was signed off by the Fund's Actuary on 30 December 2003. The Department received a copy of the valuation on 8 January 2004. Ministers have no locus in the SRA's decision taking process on the Fund's valuation results.

Bus Quality Contracts

Mr. Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he intends to publish for consultation new guidance on the process for applying for bus quality contracts. [179813]

Mr. McNulty: We are preparing guidance for local transport authorities in England on the process for applying for bus quality contracts. We intend to issue draft guidance shortly for formal consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders, including the bus industry. Guidance on bus quality contracts in Scotland was issued by the Scottish Executive in October 2001.

Departmental Websites

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost of his Department's websites, including those of its agencies, was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [178789]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows.

Department for Transport and Agency web sites

£

Web sites	*Total cost for 2003–04*
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)	1,532,069
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	1,198,000
Department for Transport (DfT)	675,769
Highways Agency (HA)	356,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	39,688
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)	25,000
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)	
TAN (Traffic Area Network).	15,600
Vehicle Inspectorate	[1]–

[1] No figures available

The costs for both DSA and DVLA cover sites which provide information about the Agencies as well as sites which enable electronic transactions.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

The costs of web site development and administration costs for the Vehicle Inspectorate cannot be identified without incurring disproportionate costs. This is because the cost of the service provided by the external contractor incorporates a range of elements over a number of years including provision of the web site, which cannot therefore be identified as a discrete element of the overall costs.

Drivers' Hours Regulations

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers of foreign heavy goods vehicles were found to be breaking the Drivers' Hours Regulations in the UK in *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04; how many were prosecuted; and what penalties were imposed. [181002]

Mr. Jamieson: The enforcement of drivers hours and records legislation is carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. Examiners check the tachograph equipment, tachograph charts and record books. The principal sanction imposed on a driver for any infringement of this legislation is that of prohibition. Prohibitions for drivers hours are immediate and prevent the risk to road safety from continuing. However prosecution action may also be instigated. The number of foreign drivers that received a prohibition for breaking drivers hours and tachograph legislation and those prosecuted for drivers hours offences are given as follows:

	2003–04	*2002–03*
Drivers prohibited	2,282	1,460
Drivers prosecuted	2	5
Penalty imposed	Fine	Fine

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign heavy goods vehicles committed tachograph offences in *(a)* 2001–02, *(b)* 2002–03 and *(c)* 2003–04; and what penalties were imposed in each case. [181003]

Mr. Jamieson: The enforcement of drivers hours and records legislation is carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. Examiners check the tachograph equipment, tachograph charts and record books. The principal sanction for any infringement of this legislation is that of prohibition. However prosecution action may also be instigated. The number of prohibitions issued for breaches of drivers hours and tachograph legislation and prosecutions for tachograph/records offences are given as follows:

	2003–04	*2002–03*	*2001–02*
Prohibitions issued (drivers hours and tacho/records)	2,282	1,460	1,618
Number of tacho/record offences prosecuted	0	3	11
Penalties imposed:			
Offences fined	n/a	1	6
Offences dismissed	n/a	0	2
No separate penalty awarded	n/a	0	3
Not guilty	n/a	1	0
Withdrawn	n/a	1	0

Operation Mermaid

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were checked by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency examiners in the Operation Mermaid exercise on 15 June; what significant differences were noted compared to similar checks at the same point in previous years; and if he will make a statement. [180163]

Mr. Jamieson: The third Operation Mermaid, a national check of goods vehicles both domestic and foreign, to be held this year took place between 14 and 18 of June. The number of vehicles inspected during the check, together with the results, is shown as follows:

	June			
	2004	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*
Number of vehicles checked				
Roadworthiness	1,279	1,312	1,303	1,357
Traffic Enforcement	870	979	1,029	1,055
Total	2,149	2,291	2,332	2,412
Number of prohibitions issued				
Roadworthiness	323 (25.2%)	537 (40.9%)	310 (23.7%)	407 (29.9%)
Traffic Enforcement[1]	146	93	116	61
Other				
Offences for investigation	91	129	108	178
Verbal warnings	88	117	128	115

[1] Includes prohibitions for drivers hours, overloading, defective speed limiter and breaches of hazardous substance carriage regulations.

These checks are highly targeted and do not reflect the underlying levels of compliance.

Noted significant differences compared to similar checks held at the same point in previous years are as follows:

The number of vehicles checked in June 2004 decreased by just over 6 per cent. when compared with June 2003.

The number of vehicles checked has continued to reduce year on year. However the number of check locations and the number of VOSA enforcement areas taking part has remained constant year on year.

The number of drivers hours prohibition notices issued for drivers hours offences increased.

Railway Sleepers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received from UK small and medium enterprises about the ability to tender for removal of railway sleepers; [180155]

(2) how many companies tendered for the removal of railway sleepers in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2004; [180156]

(3) how many representations he has received about the safety implications of lineside storage of removed railway sleepers in the last three years. [180157]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* The Department for Transport has received ministerial and public correspondence on behalf of two companies concerning the sale of redundant railway sleepers. No correspondence has been received about the line side storage of removed railway sleepers in the last three years.

Network Rail is a private sector company whose activities are governed by the regulatory regime provided by the Railways Act 1993 and general law. These issues relating to railway sleepers are commercial and operational matters for Network Rail and the companies concerned.

Road Safety

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1047W, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the use of mobile telephones while driving. [180680]

Mr. Jamieson: Ministers in the Department regularly meet their colleagues. The Home Office were consulted fully on the new offence prohibiting the use of hand-held mobile phones when driving. Enforcement of road traffic legislation is for the police.

Speed Cameras (Essex)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the revenue raised from speed cameras in Essex has been *(a)* allocated to road safety projects and *(b)* returned to Exchequer funds. [180048]

Mr. Jamieson: For 2002–03, the latest figures available, the revenue raised from fixed penalties resulting from safety camera enforcement amounted to £5,672,200 of which £5,150,286 was returned to the partnership to fund its camera activity while £521,934 was passed to the Treasury. The rules of the Government Safety Camera Cost Recovery Programme provide that the resources from speeding and jumping traffic lights are ring-fenced and can be applied solely to costs associated with the operation of safety cameras. Other investment in road safety measures is funded within local authorities' and national road programmes.

Vehicle Operator Services Agency

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received regarding limited liability for insurers under motor insurance contracts. [180313]

Mr. Jamieson: I have had no formal representations on this subject. Officials have taken the advice of the insurance industry in connection with the forthcoming European Fifth Motor Insurance Directive, and they have had further discussions with the industry on a range of subjects related to motor insurance.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Vehicle Operator Services Agency apprenticeship scheme has been withdrawn. [180387]

Mr. Jamieson: The apprenticeship scheme for 2004 was withdrawn pending a review of its future. There has been dwindling interest from internal staff in recent years and, given the relatively high annual cost of £640,000 it was decided that a review of the costs and the benefits of the scheme needed to take place.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Blind/Visually Impaired People

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement on the availability of reading material in formats accessible to blind and visually impaired people. [180466]

Jacqui Smith: The issue of making publications available in formats that are accessible to blind and partially sighted people has been under discussion by publishers and the RNIB for several years. The DTI is now facilitating these discussions and hosted a meeting in April between publishers, authors, RNIB and the National Library of the Blind to discuss the provision of accessible formats for the visually impaired. The DTI will host the next meeting in July 2004 to discuss progress.

The Government supported a private Member's Bill, the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002. Commencement of the Act was on 31 October 2003. The Act effectively reduces the previous delays in organisations gaining copyright clearances to produce books and other printed matter in formats that are accessible to visually impaired people.

DTI officials will continue to promote dialogue between trade associations, publishers, the RNIB and the National Library of the Blind to facilitate the implementation of the Act and create a forum in which issues such as opportunities for the commercial production of material in accessible formats can be discussed.

Businesses (Tamworth)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government has taken to help small businesses in the constituency of Tamworth since 1997. [179960]

Nigel Griffiths: The Business Link Operator for Staffordshire, Staffordshire Business Support Limited, has provided assistance to 1,476 enterprises, in the Tamworth constituency since 2001. The Small Business Service was set up as an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry in April 2000. Contracts were exchanged with a national network of 45 Business Link Operators (six in the West Midlands) to provide Business Support to small and medium sized enterprises from April 2001. Before this date Government Support to business was provided through Training and Enterprise Councils and the SBS does not have access to this information.

Of the 1,476 companies, 114 received Business Start Up advice, other assistance provided included Workforce Development, Financial advice, Investors In People, Specialist Business Advice, International Trade, and Marketing assistance. 107 of the companies were female run businesses and 33 were ethnic minority run businesses.

Since April 2000 the Enterprise Grant scheme (which closed on 31 March 2004) enabled six companies to receive offers of grant with a total value of £130,350.

Since 1997 the Research and Development scheme and its predecessor Smart enabled four local companies to receive offers of grant with a total value of £480,000.

Defence Exports

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether Export Credits Guarantee Department cover was *(a)* requested and *(b)* offered for the export of Hawk aircraft to India. [180145]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Although there were preliminary discussions with the exporter on the possibility of supporting the sale of Hawks to India, ECGD cover was not requested and no offer of cover was made.

East Midlands Development Agency

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the running costs, including staff salaries, of the East Midlands Development Agency were in each year since 2001; and what the projected costs for the next three years are. [179428]

Jacqui Smith: This information is set out in the Regional Development Agencies' Corporate Plans. As set out in the East Midlands Development Agency's (EMDA) Corporate Plan, the running costs, including staff salaries, for the period 2001–02 to 2005–06 are given in the following table. Figures for the financial year 2006–07 will be available early next year, when EMDA's next Corporate Plan is approved by Ministers.

East Midlands Development Agency

£ million

Financial Year	*Running costs*	*Staff salaries*
2001–02	9	5
2002–03	11	6
2003–04	13	6
2004–05[1]	14	7
2005–06[1]	15	7

[1] Projected cost.

Economic Statistics (Merseyside)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement on the rate of growth in *(a)* business activities and *(b)* financial sectors in Merseyside. [177917]

Nigel Griffiths: The latest year-on-year data shows positive business and enterprise developments across the sub region as a whole. Total business numbers for 2003 are estimated at 38,360 an increase of 8.8 per cent. on 2002 levels. Survival rates continue to improve (92 per cent. from 90 per cent. for one year and 69 per cent. from 62 per cent. for three years) and inward investment performance is robust (£37.6 million in 2003 compared to £6.7 million in 2002).

Additionally Merseyside per capita GVA has averaged annual growth of 5.3 per cent. outstripping the UK average of 5.0 per cent.

Between 1995 and 2000 the financial sector Growth in Merseyside trailed the national average of 14 per cent. by 4 per cent. However employment in the sector between 2000–02 has increased by 16.3 per cent. and the sub region has seen reputable organisation like The Bank of New York and Couttes recently relocate there.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money her Department and the agencies for which it is responsible spent *(a)* settling and *(b)* contesting claims registered at employment tribunals for (i) equal pay, (ii) sex discrimination, (iii) race discrimination, (iv) disability discrimination and (v) unfair dismissal in each year since 1997. [181032]

Ms Hewitt: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims have been made against her Department in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal in each year since 1997; and how many of these (i) proceeded to an Employment Tribunal, (ii) were withdrawn and (iii) were settled on terms that did not involve payment. [181033]

Ms Hewitt: The answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when she expects the new resource centre to promote women in science, engineering and technology to begin its work. [180068]

Ms Hewitt: Work has been going on to develop the new Resource Centre, including the recruitment of 12 staff, since January. The launch of the Centre's website will take place on 2 July 2004 and the formal launch of the Centre is on 16 September 2004. The Government has allocated £800,000 per annum for three years to set up and operate the new Centre and an additional £500,00 per annum for the development of a dedicated returners package.

EU Legislation

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 720W, on EU legislation, where the information sought is held. [180188]

Jacqui Smith: When representations about possible over-implemention of EU legislation are made to the Department, it is likely that they will be held with the records maintained in relation to the individual EU legislation.

Fuel Poverty

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the evidential basis was for the comments by the Minister for Energy, on 15 June, on removing vulnerable households from fuel poverty by 2010; and if she will make a statement. [180146]

Mr. Timms: In my speech at the conference "Energy Policy in the UK: the Scottish Dimension" in Edinburgh on the 14 June I welcomed the good progress Scotland has made on fuel poverty, with 2002 figures showing a considerable reduction from 1996. According to the 2002 definition (common with England), figures show a reduction between 1996 and 2002 of 61 per cent. Based on the 1996 standards, which uses a different definition of income, the reduction would be 73 per cent.

These figures are taken from the Government's UK Fuel Poverty Strategy Second Annual Report, published on 26 April 2004. Data for fuel poverty in Scotland shown in the report is sourced from the Scottish House Condition Survey.

Israel

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total value of *(a)* imports from and *(b)* exports to Israel under the Israel/EU Association Agreement has been. [180089]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the EU's trade in goods with Israel since the start of the Israel/EU Association Agreement on 1 June 2000 is given in the following table:

EU15 trade in goods with Israel, June 2000 to December 2003

£ million

	EU15 exports	*EU15 imports*
June to December 2000	5,777	3,547
January to December 2001	8,984	5,945
January to December 2002	8,462	5,375
January to December 2003	7,860	5,158
Total June 2000 to December 2003	31,083	20,025

Source:
Eurostat Extra and Intra EU Trade

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether it is her intention to wait until the passage into law of the Energy Bill before appointing the Chairman of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [180398]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* I announced the appointment of Sir Anthony Cleaver as adviser to the Department of Trade and Industry on preparations for setting up the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on 18 June. The appointment has been made in the expectation that subject to the successful passage of the Energy Bill he would be appointed Chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. In the event that the Energy Bill is not enacted the appointment will be terminated. The appointment was made in consultation with the Scottish Executive.

Petroleum Reserve

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will set up a Government strategic petroleum reserve within the terms set by the International Energy Authority, independent of the oil companies. [180252]

Mr. Timms: No. Under a EU Directive the UK is currently required to hold stock equivalent to 67.5 days' annual consumption for use in a supply disruption. It meets this obligation by imposing compulsory oil stocking obligations on commercial companies rather than through a Government strategic reserve. We believe that stocks held by companies are, in the event of an emergency, more likely to be where they will be needed and capable of being quickly processed into the supply chain.

Playgrounds (Accidents)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents have occurred in British playgrounds in each year since 1984. [179666]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DTI no longer provides a service on accident statistics. Information on fatalities can be obtained from The Health and Safety Executive: www.hse.gov.uk tel. 0870 154 5500 and The Office for National Statistics: www.statistics.gov.uk tel. 0845 601 3034; or for non-fatalities from The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents: www.rospa.com tel. 0870 777 2171.

Radioactive Material

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will list the occasions since 1 May 1997 when radioactive material has been unaccounted for, broken down by *(a)* location, *(b)* volume and *(c)* radioactivity level of the material; and whether the material remains missing in each case. [173141]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 14 May 2004]:* It is not clear to what kind of material the hon. Member refers. If he would like to write to me in detail I will consider the points he raises.

Social Enterprise Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the *(a)* turnover and *(b)* profit of the social enterprise sector was in each of the last 20 years; and if she will make a statement; [175473]

(2) how many social enterprises have been established in each of the last 20 years; and if she will make a statement. [175474]

Nigel Griffiths: I am advised that the DTI's 2003 review of existing mapping studies covering social enterprise is the only attempt to bring together work estimating the number of social enterprises across the UK. It roughly estimates there are around 5,300 social enterprises with trading income over 50 per cent. The Small Business Service's Social Enterprise Unit is undertaking a further research project to establish data on social enterprises. Figures for previous years are not available.

Social enterprises play a valuable role in helping to create a strong, sustainable and socially inclusive economy. The Government greatly appreciates the work of the Social Enterprise Coalition and the SBS's Social Enterprise Unit.

Soft Drink Prices

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment she has made of changes which have occurred in the industry since publication of the Department's Soft Drinks National Pricing Survey in 1999; [180326]

(2) what steps other than the March Price Display Order she has taken in relation to the pricing of soft drinks in licensed premises; [180327]

(3) what steps she will take to assess the impact of the March Price Display Order in relation to the price of soft drinks in licensed premises. [180328]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since publication of the Soft Drinks Pricing Survey, we have worked closely with stakeholders to improve transparency of soft drink prices in licensed premises. This resulted in the publication of trade good practice guidance on price indications in the hospitality and leisure industry; the Price Marking (Food and Drink Services) Order 2003; and DTI guidance on the new Order. We will be monitoring with stakeholders the combined effect of these measures on price transparency and on the overall cost to consumers of soft drinks in these establishments over the coming months.

SPC 2888

Mr. Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether *(a)* the Export Credits Guarantee Department and *(b)* her Department were informed by BP, BTC Co. or members of BTC Co. of allegations of fraud in the procurement of the coating regarding the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; [179980]

(2) whether the results of BTC Co.'s internal investigations into fraud allegations regarding the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline were conveyed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [179986]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In February 2004 ECGD were informed by BP that an independent BP audit had been carried out into the procurement process of the SPC 2888 field joint coating for the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. The results of this investigation (that the allegations were "unfounded") were conveyed to ECGD at the same time.

Mr. Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assessment has been made into the use of SPC 2888 by major pipelines other than the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline where the pipeline is coated with a three layer, high density, polyethylene coating; and how many of the pipes coated with SPC 2888 (i) have been backfilled in Azerbaijan and Georgia and (ii) are waiting in trenches for backfill in Azerbaijan and Georgia; [179981]

(2) whether the SPC 2888 coating was subject to a full field test in simulated weather conditions before approval for use on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; [179983]

(3) what measures were taken by the Export Credits Guarantee Department to check the specifications of the coating supplied by SPC for the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; [179985]

(4) whether the field joint coating specification used in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline included post-application heat induction. [179991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The WorleyParsons report on the field joint coating issue (SPC 2888), included a case history of use of SPC 2888 on other pipelines. It showed that SPC 2888 had been used extensively in North America. I cannot confirm exactly how many of the pipes coated with SPC 2888 have been backfilled or are waiting in trenches for backfill in Azerbaijan and Georgia. Information on the progress of the project can be found on: www.caspiandevelopmentandexport.com

WorleyParsons also checked the suitability of this type of field joint coating. They confirmed that SPC 2888 was subject to testing in simulated cold weather conditions in an independent UK laboratory and that the field joint coating specification used in the BTC pipeline included post-application heat induction.

Mr. Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what percentage of the unburied pipes in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline coated with SPC 2888 have developed cracks in *(a)* Azerbaijan and *(b)* Georgia; [179982]

(2) whether the Department was informed about the discovery of cracks in joints coated with SPC 2888 prior to the decision *(a)* to fund part of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline project and *(b)* to disburse funds approved for the project; and what action was taken by her Department; [179987]

(3) when the Export Credits Guarantee Department was informed by *(a)* BP and *(b)* BTC Co. of the costs involved in rectifying the use of faulty coating in the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline project; [179988]

(4) when the Export Credits Guarantee Department was informed by *(a)* BP, *(b)* BTC Co. and *(c)* members of BTC Co. about the discovery of cracks in joints coated with SPC 2888 on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; and what action was taken. [179990]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that there has been no reported cracking to the pipes. None of the pipes are coated with SPC 2888 the field joint coating, which is only used on the joints. There were reports of minor hairline cracking in the field joint coating over joints. ECGD has been informed through a WorleyParsons

desktop study report that the percentage of unburied coated joints that experienced cracking in the field joint coating was as follows: *(a)* 2.6 per cent. in Azerbaijan, and *(b)* 26 per cent. in Georgia.

No pipes were buried with defective joint coatings.

I am told that ECGD first became aware of the cracking in the field joint coating in February 2004. BP/BTC had not informed ECGD before the allegations appeared in the Sunday Times article of 15 February 2004. ECGD was not aware of the cracking in the field joint coating prior to the decision to provide support on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan project, but were aware prior to the initial disbursement of funds. The lenders, including ECGD, considered this very carefully before the first disbursement was made. ECGD awaits the results of a site visit by Worley Parsons, but has been assured by BP that the rectification costs will be considerably lower than the US$500 million alleged in the Sunday Times article.

Mr. Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment she has made of the impact of construction delays resulting from having to rectify the faulty pipeline coating on the short-term financial viability of the Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline project. [179989]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The BTC lender group (which includes ECGD) asked WorleyParsons Energy Services (the BTC lenders pipeline facilities independent consultant) to provide a report on the issues surrounding the field joint coating. This report included an assessment on what impact the field joint coating issues would have on the construction schedule and cost implications. WorleyParsons concluded that there would, at the most, be a minimal impact on the construction schedule and that the cost implications would be 'fairly small', although no final costing would be available until the recoating work was completed.

Consumer Gateway

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what changes there have been in consumer knowledge and access to information since the launch of the website The Consumer Gateway. [179822]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Consumer Gateway website was launched in July 1999. The Department of Trade and Industry last published statistics on the levels of consumer knowledge in January 2003, in the Consumer Knowledge Performance Monitor, Omnibus Tracking-Wave 3. This is available via the Department's website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/ccp/publications.htm.

UK Aerospace

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what help, advice and assistance she has given to UK Aerospace to retain the Farnborough Air Show as a shop window for the industry; and if she will make a statement. [178255]

Jacqui Smith: Farnborough is one of the premier air shows in the world and shows clearly the range and success of the UK aerospace industry. It is ran and organised by the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC), which reported that $9 billion of business was concluded at the 2002 show. The opening ceremony this year will be conducted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who will also co-host a reception for senior industry figures and international investors with the Defence Secretary. A number of other Ministers are also expected to visit in order to demonstrate their support for the industry.

University Business Spin-out

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions she has had with representatives of HM Treasury about encouraging the spin-out of private firms from UK universities. [178762]

Ms Hewitt: I have regular discussions with HM Treasury on a wide range of issues including the exploitation of research from the science base.

The Lambert Review recommended that Government should set clear guidelines for third stream funding to rebalance commercialisation activities. The Government welcomes the report and is strongly supportive of the analysis in the review. The full Government response to Lambert will be published shortly within the 10 year science framework document.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Directorships (FTSE 100)

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for Women what assessment she has made of the trends in the percentage of women in directorships of FTSE 100 companies. [175926]

Ms Hewitt: The Cranfield University School of Management published their most recent Female FTSE report in October 2003. This indicated the representation of women in directorships of FTSE 100 companies as follows:

	Female-held seats (executive and non-executive directorships)		*Female executive directorships*	
FTSE 100 (October)	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2003	101	8.6	17	3.7
2002	84	7.2	15	3.0
2001	75	6.4	10	2.0
2000	69	5.8	11	2.0

As recommended by the Tyson Report, we commissioned a further study on the diversity of all directors in FTSE 100 companies. This research, which was also carried out by Cranfield, has now been presented to the Department and is currently under consideration. This continues to be an area which is one to which my right hon. Friend the Deputy Minister for Women and I attach great importance.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants and what percentage of the total Civil Service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180178]

Mr. Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Brent, South (Mr. Boateng) on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1293W.

Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to his Answer of 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1538W, on public bodies, how many reviews of public bodies according to detailed guidelines were carried out by his Office between 1997 and 2002. [178769]

Mr. Alexander: Reviews of four non-departmental public bodies for which this department was responsible were conducted between 1997 and 2002.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much is estimated to have been fraudulently claimed in social security benefits in each of the past three financial years; and what the estimated amount is for the current year. [180683]

Mr. Spellar: We are totally committed to a robust approach to tackling fraud and error and abuse of the social security system wherever it occurs.

The Social Security Agency has a comprehensive and rigorous strategy for combating fraud designed to ensure that:

claims entering the system are legitimate;

once in the system claims are maintained properly; and

where fraud does enter the system it is detected and appropriate action is taken.

In the three-year period from April 2001 to March 2004, 40,000 cases of suspected fraud were investigated. Of these cases, over 16,000 resulted in withdrawal of claims or changes in the rate of benefit paid totalling £9.8 million.

The estimated levels of fraud across the main benefits are as follows:

	Percentage	*£ million*
March 2002		
Income support	2.4	13.378
Jobseeker's allowance	8.7	7.603
Disability living allowance[1]	[2]0.3	1.346
Incapacity benefit[1]	—	—
Housing benefit	2.1	7.025
March 2003		
Income support	0.9	5.868
Jobseeker's allowance	7.6	7.805
Disability living allowance[1]	—	—
Incapacity benefit[1]	[2]0.3	0.960
Housing benefit	2.2	6.967
March 2004[3]		
Income support	1.6	7.626
Jobseeker's allowance	6.1	6.627
Disability living allowance[1]	[4]—	[4]—
Incapacity benefit[1]	—	—
Housing benefit	—	—

[1] Disability living allowance and incapacity benefit levels are measured every two years.
[2] These figures are based on a percentage of cases and an estimated financial projection as levels of fraud were found to be low.
[3] Final year-end figures are not yet available. Figures shown for income support and jobseeker's allowance represent position at December 2003.
[4] Available September 2004.

The estimate for the current year (2004–05) will not be available until July 2005.

Civil Partnerships

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 18 May 2004, *Official Report*, columns 936–37W, on civil partnerships, what assessment he has made of the proportion of respondents opposed to the introduction of civil partnerships in Northern Ireland revealed in the report on the consultation. [181402]

Mr. Pearson: The Office of Law Reform published on 10 May 2004 an Analysis of Responses to the consultation paper, "Civil Partnership: A Legal Status for Committed Same-Sex Couples in Northern Ireland". Overall 462 responses were received. Of these, 416 were from individuals and 46 from representative groups or bodies. Most respondents (86 per cent.) were opposed to the introduction of civil partnership in Northern Ireland. Most organisations (60 per cent.), however, including the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission were supportive of the proposal. Of those who opposed civil partnership, marriage issues featured as a significant reasons for objection (87 per cent.). There was an equal division in those who felt that civil partnership was in effect 'gay marriage' and those who were concerned that it would undermine marriage. A considerable proportion of those who mentioned marriage cited traditional Christian beliefs and values and referred, in particular, to the sanctity of marriage. Many of those in opposition mentioned religious issues as a basis for objection (69 per cent.), with children's issues a prime concern for others (56 per cent.).

Civil Service Pay

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to meet the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance to resolve the civil service pay dispute; and if he will make a statement. [177609]

Mr. Pearson: My officials from the Department of Finance and Personnel met with union leaders on 8 March and again on 11 March. At these meetings

officials emphasised that they could not reopen 2003 pay beyond the 3.67 per cent. envelope but that they were willing to explore all other reasonable means to resolving the dispute as quickly as possible.

Since then officials have re-emphasised to the trade union that they remain committed to resolving the dispute. The Head of the Civil Service has also agreed to meet with the trade union as soon as possible to discuss the current situation. I am keen to move on to 2004 pay and have instructed my officials to continue negotiations as quickly as possible.

Staff in the Northern Ireland Office are subject to separate pay negotiations involving NIPS A in relation to Northern Ireland Civil Servants. NIPS A is also taking industrial action in the NIO and officials are currently seeking a further meeting with the trade union.

European Elections

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many voters were turned away from polling stations in Northern Ireland at the recent European parliamentary elections for not having valid photographic identification. [179494]

Mr. Spellar: The Chief Electoral Officer is currently engaged in retrieving the necessary information. As this is a complex exercise, I am afraid it is not possible to give a full reply at this stage. The question will be answered in full as soon as possible.

Farm Payments

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many payments in respect of each category of farm payment, and of what total value, are due to be paid to farmers in Northern Ireland by 30 June. [180815]

Mr. Pearson: The total value and number of subsidy payments due to be paid out to farmers in Northern Ireland by 30 June 2004 is broken down as follows:

Premium	*Applications*	*£ million*
Beef Special	58,918	47
Slaughter	38,424	30
Suckler Cow	13,147	48
Extensification	20,964	35

Juvenile Justice Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the inspection of the Juvenile Justice Centre by the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice will take place. [180706]

Mr. Spellar: The inspection of the Juvenile Justice Centre by the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice will take place in October.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many assaults there have been on staff by young offenders at the Juvenile Justice Centre in each month since its opening. [179493]

Mr. Spellar: This is an operational responsibility of the Acting Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland (Artie O'Neill). He has advised me that there have been 24 assaults on staff since the centre opened in October of 2003, broken down by month as follows:

	Number
October	4
November	5
December	3
January	3
February	2
March	2
April	1
May	2
June[1]	2

[1] Up to 18 June 2004.

Loughbrickland Lake

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to restore Loughbrickland Lake as a prime location for brown trout and rainbow trout fishing. [179924]

Angela Smith: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure regularly stocks Loughbrickland Lake with brown and rainbow trout with the aim of sustaining the standing stock of takeable size fish at levels whereby anglers have a reasonable chance of catching a fish. There is very limited scope to improve stock levels by natural production.

Loughbrickland Lake is similar to many still water bodies in Northern Ireland where fishing quality has suffered due to water quality degradation. Excessive weed growth is a particular problem on this lake. The Department has constructed a slipway to enable its weed cutting machine to be used on the lake and the channel has been deepened to allow its use when water levels fall.

Other environmentally responsible means to control weed growth are under consideration.

Museum of Sea and Sky

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what progress has been made with the development of a Museum of Sea and Sky in Belfast; [179804]

(2) what discussions he has held regarding acquiring the aircraft held by the Langford Lodge aviation museum for the proposed Museum of Sea and Sky in Belfast. [179805]

Angela Smith: The Museum of Sea and Sky formed part of the first Development Plan of the National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland (MAGNI). The proposal has since evolved into the more comprehensive museum development MAGNI @ Titanic Quarter. The MAGNI Development Plan is currently under discussion with a number of stakeholders, including the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB)'s recently published Strategic Framework for

Action listed Titanic (Maritime) Belfast as one of its five signature projects and with Belfast city council (BCC) is now working jointly on this development. BCC have established a Titanic Forum comprising all the main stakeholders and the forum will take forward future research and interest for Titanic reflected tourism infrastructure. NITB and BCC have commissioned consultants to examine the potential for developing the Titanic concept including the potential for a museum development. MAGNI will consider the outcome of this alongside the potential funding implications.

The aviation collection housed at Langford Lodge is in the ownership of the Ulster Aviation Society (UAS) and I am aware of the difficulties surrounding continued use of the Langford Lodge site. The Museums and Galleries for NI (MAGNI) are in discussions with the Ulster Aviation Society about the current position.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his latest estimate is of the number of myalgic encephalomyelitis sufferers in Northern Ireland; and what the percentage change has been in each year since 2000. [179733]

Angela Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the implementation of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy will begin; and if he will make a statement. [179803]

Mr. Spellar: Implementation of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy has already begun. A consultation exercise on the areas and supporting structures has been completed. I intend to make an announcement shortly on the final selection of Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The intention is to take forward the strategy in three phases. Phase 1 the transition from former funding streams has already been implemented in Belfast and Londonderry. The details of phase 2 will be included in my forthcoming announcement.

NHS Direct

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made piloting the NHS Direct concept in Northern Ireland. [179735]

Angela Smith: I refer the hon. Lady to my answer of 11 December 2003, Official Report, column 578W.

Further to this, I can confirm that a Primary Care Strategy Framework document was launched for public consultation on 7 June 2004. The consultation period ends on 8 October 2004 and the result of the consultation will determine the priorities for the development of primary care services over the next 20 years.

Queen's Festival

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources were allocated to the Queen's Festival in each of the past five years; and what percentage of the total arts budget this represents. [178525]

Angela Smith: The following table shows resources allocated to the Belfast Festival at Queen's in each of the last five years. The figures in brackets show the Arts Council's allocation expressed as a percentage of its total expenditure on the arts, from Exchequer funds, in each year.

£

	Arts Council of Northern Ireland		*Northern Ireland Events Company*	*Northern Ireland Tourist Board*	*Total*
1999–2000	105,000	(1.4%)	150,000	15,720	270,720
2000–01	92,500	(1.33%)	100,000	15,000	207,500
2001–02	107,500	(1.26%)	100,000	15,000	222,500
2002–03	102,500	(1.49%)	87,955	13,800	204,255
2003–04	190,000	(1.73%)	—	—	190,000

In addition to the above, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland provided National Lottery funding for Belfast Festival at Queen's in each of the last five years as follows:

	National Lottery funding (£)	*Percentage of Lottery proceeds for the arts in Northern Ireland (Percentage)*
1999–2000	100,948	1.22
2000–01	86,500	0.96
2001–02	250,444	2.71
2002–03	101,789	1.19
2003–04	143,238	2.01

Sexual Health

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been provided to the sexual health advisory organisation Brook in each of the last five years. [179660]

Angela Smith: Health and Social Services Boards have provided the following funding to Brook in the last five years:

£

H&SSB	*2003–04*	*2002–03*	*2001–02*	*2000–01*	*1999–2000*
Eastern	67,481	56,925	55,072	62,728	52,420
Northern	21,095	20,580	20,040	19,551	19,074
Southern	0	1,732	1,072	1,292	1,500
Western	385	0	0	0	0
Total	88,961	79,237	76,184	83,571	72,994

In addition, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has provided one off funding to the organisation as follows:

	£
2003-04	0
2002-03	4,000
2001-02	9,000
2000-01	6,450
1999-2000	10,000

Traffic Volumes

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what volume of traffic used the *(a)* A2 Bangor to Belfast road and *(b)* Bangor ring road, County Down (i) in the last period for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last five years. [179954]

Mr. Spellar: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Member in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin to Lady Hermon, dated 24 June 2004:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about the volume of traffic using the A2 Bangor to Belfast road and the Bangor Ring Road in the last five years. I have been asked to reply as the issue raised falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive.

The following table indicates the average daily two-way traffic flow figures recorded at a number of our permanent counter sites along these routes for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Figures for 1999 are only available for the City Airport site on the A2.

Location	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
A2 at City Airport	49,490	45,810	42,730	49,540	49,890
A2 at Cultra	—	36,290	35,680	35,820	35,320
A2 at Springhill	—	24,330	23,770	23,600	22,740
Bangor Ring Road at Clandeboye	—	20,900	21,070	19,670	20,230

I hope this information is helpful.

West Belfast Festival

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public funding has been allocated through Northern Ireland Departments to the West Belfast Festival in each of the last three years. [177913]

Angela Smith: The amount of public funding allocated to Féile an Phobail, often described as the West Belfast Festival, over the past three years through Northern Ireland Departments is shown in the following table:

	Amount (£)
2001-02	258,030.41
2002-03	358,138.26
2003-04	317,321.28

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Child Poverty

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Secretary of State for Work and Pension's answer of 15 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 12, on child poverty, what extra resources the Government is putting into counselling; and what steps it takes to encourage people to resolve relationship difficulties in the interests of their children. [179443]

Margaret Hodge: There are number of ways in which the Government encourage people to resolve relationship difficulties in the interests of the child. For the financial year 2004–05, the Marriage and Relationship Support (MARS) grant programme provided £4.9 million to a wide variety of voluntary sector organisations providing marriage and relationship support. The MARS grant funds activities aimed at helping people establish, maintain and develop successful relationships with their partners. This includes encouraging people to resolve relationship difficulties in the interests of their children.

Sure Start local programmes and Children's Centres through the range of family support and counselling services they provide often also provide opportunities for couples to discuss relationship issues. Similarly, a Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) officer might be involved at court directions hearings in providing assistance to children and their families to help them reach agreement on arrangements for their children, primarily in respect of contact and residence.

Teachers (Abuse Allegations)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of the change in the number of sexual abuse allegations against teachers; [180000]

(2) what assessment he has made of the rate of convictions in cases of allegations of *(a)* sexual, *(b)* physical and *(c)* verbal abuse against teachers since 1991; [180014]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on teacher recruitment of increased rates of false abuse allegations against teachers. [180016]

Mr. Miliband: Information about the number of allegations of sexual abuse against teachers and the rate of convictions in respect of allegations of sexual, physical, or verbal abuse against teachers since 1991 is not available. Consequently it is not possible to make assessments of this kind.

My Department has no evidence that the issue of allegations against teachers is a factor that affects recruitment to the profession. Nevertheless, the issue of false or unfounded allegations against teachers, and other education staff, is one that we take very seriously. My Department currently funds a network of 25 regional coordinators who work with local education authorities, police and social services to improve the way allegations are dealt with, and we are actively seeking to identify ways of further speeding up the process and weeding out false or unfounded allegations as quickly as possible.

Adoption Register

Ms Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the operation of the Adoption Register. [176524]

Margaret Hodge: The Adoption Register's current contract expires in August 2004. The Department will shortly begin a competitive tendering exercise to continue operation of the Register for up to a further three years.

Child Care

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many childcare places were available for children aged under eight years old in each region in each year since 1997. [180789]

Margaret Hodge: The Department is unable to provide details of childcare places available for under eight year olds prior to March 2003. However, the table below provides a regional breakdown of the number of childcare places registered by OfSTED and available for under eight year olds at March 2003 and March 2004.

Region	*Number of childcare places available for under 8s at March 2003*[1]	*Number of childcare places available for under 8s at March 2004*[1]
Eastern England	95,889	112,417
East Midlands	83,130	93,318
London	131,829	149,995
North East	40,318	48,814
North West	140,923	165,430
South East	177,974	199,830
South West	96,533	106,493
West Midlands	113,945	126,999
Yorks and Humberside	87,281	99,389

[1] Net Places = The number of places added to stock, taking into account closed places in year.

Children's Services

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of regulation in the provision of children's services. [179761]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has embarked on an ambitious programme of reform in the provision of children's services. We want professionals to work together to improve local delivery, while ensuring that children receive high quality of care and education.

The Green Paper, "Every Child Matters" sets out our commitment to achieving more coherent and effective children's services, reducing the amount of regulation where possible. The strategy therefore aims to encourage integrated planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services, with easier access to specialist services and duplication minimised through the development of a Common Assessment Framework and the use of lead professionals to bring together

packages of support from multi-disciplinary teams to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.

As part of these wider reforms, my Department has introduced the Children Bill into the House of Lords in March of this year. Regulation is being kept to the minimum necessary to achieve a robust integrated framework of services with clear lines of accountability, inspection and intervention. But we do still intend to regulate where this is needed to sharpen arrangements to safeguard children, eg in the establishment of statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards to replace the current non-statutory Area Child Protection Committees.

The provisions are intended to strengthen local flexibility to meet local needs. So for example, a new power for local services to pool budgets will enable more flexible pooling of funds between local partners and make it easier for agencies to work together in the commissioning and delivery of services. The Bill also pursues the streamlining of statutory planning requirements by removing the requirement for a plan to cover services for children in need. We have committed in debate to moving towards a single plan for children's services and our intention is to lift most statutory education planning requirements at the same time.

My Department is committed to reducing bureaucracy—and is working jointly with the Cabinet Office Regulatory Impact Unit to identify unnecessary bureaucracy to promote more efficient, streamlined processes. This work necessarily includes a consideration of the regulatory framework within which children's services are delivered and will aim to deliver a practical set of key outcomes with stakeholders to deliver the changes needed to reduce bureaucratic burdens.

My Department is committed to evaluate any measures that are implemented, either through the Children Bill or through policy more generally and will look again at anything which proves to be unnecessarily bureaucratic in practice.

Children's Homes (Privately-run)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places for children in privately-run children's homes there were in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* each London borough in each of the last five years. [177040]

Margaret Hodge: Since 2002, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (and its predecessor) have collected information on children in all privately-run children's homes on a regional basis. The available information on the number of places for privately-run children's homes at 31 March for the London region are set out in the table; figures for individual boroughs are not readily available.

	Number
2002	643
2003	676
2004	718

Schools Expenditure (Warrington)

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital expenditure was on schools in Warrington, South in each year since 1997. [168701]

Mr. Miliband: We do not hold the information requested at constituency level. The table shows net current expenditure for revenue at local authority level.

	LEA	*Total (£000)*[1,2,4]
1997–98[3]	Cheshire	350,072
1998–99	Warrington	73,898
1999–00[5]	Warrington	79,896
2000–01	Warrington	87,651
2001–02	Warrington	97,022
2002–03[6]	Warrington	94,595

[1] Data sources are RO1 (ODPM) and Section 52 (DfES) collected at local authority level.

[2] Net current expenditure (NCE) includes expenditure within schools and also that incurred centrally by the LEAs.

[3] Cheshire LEA is given for 1997–98 as prior to local government re-organisation in 1998–99 what is now Cheshire, Halton and Warrington LEAs were grouped together under Cheshire LEA.

[4] Total expenditure in schools includes pre-primary, primary, secondary and special schools.

[5] 1999–2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

[6] The outturn 2002–03 returns captured the data in a fundamentally different way to the previous years. Categories were aligned with the Consistent Financial Reporting framework and the spending by LEAs was no longer split by school sector. Consequently the unit costs per pupil in 2002–03 are not strictly comparable with earlier years. An estimate is provided using an apportionment of LEA expenditure based on pupil numbers.

The following table shows capital allocations made to Warrington local education authority and its schools. Records of how capital allocations are spent are held locally.

	£000
1998–99	3,272
1999–2000	4,222
2000–01	8,041
2001–02	8,061
2002–03	8,646
2003–04	8,821
2004–05[1]	6,856

[1] further allocations for 2004–05 are still to be made.

Teacher Vacancies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teaching posts were vacant in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough in each year since 1997; and what the average figures for a local education authority in England were in each year. [172802]

Mr. Miliband: The following tables show the number of full-time teacher vacancies in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in each London local education authority (LEA). And the national average for LEAs in England as at January of each year.

Nursery and primary

LEA	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
City of London	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Camden	7	12	21	17	30	13	—
Greenwich	5	31	52	16	22	23	15
Hackney	23	51	38	47	51	21	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	35	15	14	15	37	4
Islington	3	27	10	20	38	17	7
Kensington and Chelsea	—	17	3	3	19	2	1
Lambeth	20	6	46	36	35	32	7
Lewisham	16	31	21	18	33	36	10
Southwark	18	54	47	42	62	13	3
Tower Hamlets	45	52	80	71	96	66	53
Wandsworth	16	29	17	13	22	18	10
City of Westminster	16	13	14	15	35	10	8
Barking and Dagenham	27	10	12	8	13	—	—
Barnet	9	8	11	29	55	26	6
Bexley	1	1	—	13	35	5	18
Brent	16	20	13	5	8	21	42
Bromley	6	11	6	9	26	10	7
Croydon	21	8	25	8	29	13	7
Ealing	15	17	32	14	13	21	17
Enfield	5	11	19	13	29	27	16
Haringey	22	20	20	19	22	30	30
Harrow	4	9	12	24	32	29	19
Havering	—	—	3	1	—	6	11
Hillingdon	10	15	8	9	16	27	24
Hounslow	7	8	5	3	4	19	22
Kingston upon Thames	—	5	6	1	9	3	3
Merton	5	7	5	3	2	7	4
Newham	70	61	34	40	52	26	13
Redbridge	2	7	7	6	9	4	3
Richmond upon Thames	3	2	2	3	9	6	6
Sutton	3	4	2	—	—	4	3
Waltham Forest	35	43	2	—	—	24	35
National Average	7	9	9	9	14	12	7

Secondary

LEA	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
City of London	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Camden	9	2	8	13	27	16	3
Greenwich	14	22	9	14	39	36	26
Hackney	1	9	30	22	45	38	6
Hammersmith and Fulham	8	12	8	8	28	44	19
Islington	14	15	3	11	13	20	9
Kensington and Chelsea	—	3	6	2	16	5	9
Lambeth	4	6	12	12	10	19	7
Lewisham	7	18	8	20	35	23	9
Southwark	6	6	14	30	33	8	5
Tower Hamlets	12	13	12	26	55	13	29
Wandsworth	13	5	12	10	25	24	31
City of Westminster	2	4	11	14	12	15	10
Barking and Dagenham	14	7	3	9	10	5	2
Barnet	6	14	21	20	41	15	7
Bexley	4	5	7	16	47	42	36
Brent	10	8	17	5	15	27	33
Bromley	6	4	7	3	35	19	15
Croydon	2	5	11	28	46	28	13
Ealing	8	30	22	18	53	19	21
Enfield	4	6	9	15	33	33	21
Haringey	20	10	13	14	19	26	46
Harrow	1	2	5	14	24	23	24
Havering	9	15	10	17	38	10	13
Hillingdon	9	13	19	14	30	24	19
Hounslow	7	14	10	5	14	52	35
Kingston upon Thames	3	1	3	7	12	12	5
Merton	3	—	6	13	11	6	12
Newham	29	21	3	14	49	16	11
Redbridge	2	10	7	1	31	6	2

	Secondary						
LEA	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Richmond upon Thames	—	1	2	12	18	19	14
Sutton	2	5	5	1	10	15	14
Waltham Forest	6	4	5	4	7	17	21
National average	5	6	6	8	17	16	14

Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618g)

Foster Carers

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will give foster carers official recognition as part of the social care workforce. [179464]

Margaret Hodge: We do recognise the invaluable contribution that foster carers make to some of the most vulnerable children and young people.

The Green Paper, 'Every Child Matters' and the Next Steps document set out a vision for changing the delivery of services for children and young people. It included an explicit pledge to do more to attract new foster carers at the same time as retaining the excellent carers we already have.

We are committed to working across a range of partnerships to transform the children's workforce—and we see foster carers very much as part of that. The emerging Children, Young People and Families Workforce Council, now in shadow form, will be part of the developing UK-wide Social Care, Children and Young People's Sector Skills Council. The Children's Council will work closely with employers and employer interest organisations, including those representing foster carers, in its plans for workforce development, covering issues such as recognition, regulation, reward, support and training.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the case for a national system of allowances for foster carers based on recommended minimum levels. [179465]

Margaret Hodge: The national minimum standards for fostering services already require that: 'Each foster carer receives an allowance and agreed expenses, which cover the full cost of caring for each child or young person placed with him or her'. Additionally some foster carers may receive a fee payment. We consider it is important for local authorities to maintain flexibility to reflect local differences in the cost of caring for a child.

The Choice Protects Programme is supported by a £113 million grant over three years. In 2004–05 this amounts to £30 million for local authorities. This money can be used to improve payments for foster carers.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to increase the number of foster carers. [179470]

Margaret Hodge: We are spending £1.5 million of the Choice Protects Grant in 2004–05 to develop a number of suggestions from the Green Paper to improve the status, support and training for foster carers.

These include the development of a national award scheme, a national helpline for foster carers and support for foster carers facing allegations. We plan to invite bids from organisations to provide these resources shortly.

In February this year we produced a Fostering Publicity Pack designed to help local authority fostering teams to run targeted local campaigns to recruit new foster carers for looked after children. We have awarded the Fostering Network a three year grant of £180,000 to support Foster Care Fortnight which has a particular focus on recruitment. We will also shortly be publishing an important new report that examines what we can learn from recent research on foster care. This will be accompanied by customised leaflets for all those involved in fostering.

Latin and Greek

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what correspondence he and his Ministers have had with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the decision of the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance to cease examining Latin and Greek after 2006. [180630]

Mr. Miliband: There has been no ministerial correspondence with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) on this issue.

Local Authority Secure Units

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his assessment is of unmet need for local authority secure unit beds. [180028]

Margaret Hodge: Following the Youth Justice Board's commissioning decisions earlier this year, DfES carried out jointly with the Association of Directors of Social Services a survey of local authorities to gauge any hidden demand for welfare placements in secure children's homes. The response to this survey was disappointing, which may in itself demonstrate that unmet need is not a widespread issue of concern to local authorities. Of the 22 responses received, only a small minority expressed concern about unmet need.

Mathematics (Multiplication Tables)

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the teaching of multiplication tables in primary schools. [177274]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: The teaching of multiplication tables is an important part of the daily mathematics lesson in primary schools. Teachers are provided with key teaching objectives through the Primary Strategy's yearly teaching programmes and are encouraged to give priority to multiplication tables.

Children's skills in using a range of mental computation methods—including recall of multiplication facts up to 10 × 10—are tested in the national tests at Key Stage 2.

The Qualification and Curriculum Authority recommends that teachers encourage children to memorise multiplication facts using a variety of learning skills.

Parenting Fund

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons work to support adult relationships was not included in funding allocations from the Parenting Fund. [179440]

Margaret Hodge: The Parenting Fund was announced in the 2002 Spending Review specifically as a fund to "help parents improve their parenting skills". This focuses on supporting parents in their parenting role, rather than support of the couple relationship.

My Department's Marriage and Relationship Support (MARS) Grant already supports work focused on the couple relationship. I announced £4.9 million MARS funding on 10 May.

Pre-school Education

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children aged three to five years had access to education in West Bromwich East in each of the last eight years. [180256]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not available in the form requested.

Figures on the number of free nursery education places taken up by three and four year olds in Sandwell local education authority area are shown in the table.

The latest national figures on provision for three and four year olds were published in a Statistical Release Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2004' which is available on the Department's website www.dfes.qov.uk/rsgateway.

Number of free nursery education places[1,2] taken up by three and four year old children in maintained nursery and primary schools and private, voluntary and independent providers in San dwell Local Education Authority area: 1997 to 2003

Position in January each year

Year	*3 year olds*	*4 year olds*	*Total*
2003	3,300	3,700	7,000
2002	3,100	3,800	7,000
2001	3,200	3,500	6,700
2000	3,200	3,500	6,700
1999	3,100	3,900	7,000
1998	3,100	4,000	7,100
1997	3,000	4,000	7,000

[1] Part-time equivalent number of free nursery education places taken up by three and four year old children.

[2] A free nursery education place comprises five two and a half hour sessions of early years education per week, for thirty-three weeks of the year, usually three terms of eleven weeks. Children aged three and four in maintained nursery and primary schools are counted as taking up one place.

School Admissions

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he has taken to ensure consistency in the decisions of different school admissions appeal panels; [180323]

(2) what guidance he has issued to school admissions appeals panels on the criteria that they should use in determining appeals. [180325]

Mr. Miliband: The School Admission Appeals Code of Practice is statutory guidance for admission appeal panels and fully explains how they should hear appeals and reach their decisions. It is important that the panel should consider all the evidence and balance the needs of the school against the needs of the individual pupil.

My Department has commissioned training materials for panel members and chairs of panels, which are available free of charge, and funded a number of events in recent years where training materials are disseminated. Over the next year this will be focused on those who train panel members at a local level. In addition, my Department funds a dedicated internet message board which provides a forum for discussion and the sharing of information and good practice on admission and appeals issues.

Schools (Kent)

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will ensure that Kent schools receive funding in an early phase of Building Schools for the Future. [180250]

Mr. Miliband: We published the prioritisation criteria for Building Schools for the Future in July 2003; a copy of this guidance is in the House of Commons Library. We will consider Kent LEA's expression of interest against these criteria, along with all other authorities. The Department aims to announce which LEAs will make up waves 2 and 3 later this year—probably in the autumn. We hope also to provide some further BSF information to help all LEAs plan their capital strategies.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what systems are in place to ensure that children with learning difficulties are identified at an early age; and how many were identified in each local authority in the last year for which figures are available, as a proportion of the total school population. [180038]

Margaret Hodge: Local authorities, maintained schools, early years settings and others have to have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, published in November 2001, which gives practical advice on carrying out their statutory duties to identify, assess and make suitable provision for children with SEN.

The Code of Practice emphasises the importance of early identification, assessment and provision for any child who may have SEN, and that assessment should be seen as a continuing process and not a single event. The

importance of early intervention is also a cornerstone of the Government's recently published Strategy for SEN, 'Removing Barriers to Achievement'. This sets out our long term vision for SEN, together with a programme of sustained action and review, both nationally and locally.

We want to ensure that children with learning difficulties receive the help they need as soon as possible. As part of our strategy, we are for example looking to embed in practice nationally the principles of the Early Support Pilot Programme for very young disabled children under three and their families, and to ensure that parents of children with SEN have access to suitable child care. It is also important to identify and disseminate good practice. That is why we have commissioned MENCAP to undertake a feasibility study for establishing a National Early Intervention Centre of Excellence.

The available information is given in the following table. It shows numbers of children for whom statements were made for the first time in 2003 together with the relevant LEA school populations. It should be noted that some children have a statement maintained by one LEA but attend a school situated in a different LEA. The school population figures are based upon location of school rather than home residence of the pupils and so cannot be used to produce reliable proportions. Information is not collected centrally on when pupils are first identified as having special educational needs.

Number of children for whom local education authorities maintain a statement of special educational needs (provisional)[1]
By local education authority and Government office region in England

	Children for whom statements were made for the first time during the calendar year 2003		*Number of pupils in schools*[2]	
	Aged under 5	*Aged 5 to 10*	*Aged under 5*	*Aged 5 to 10*
England	6,860	14,650	953,850	3,755,850
North east	330	760	57,950	189,570
Darlington	20	30	2,430	7,790
Durham	50	70	10,600	35,830
Gateshead	20	70	4,010	13,950
Hartlepool	10	30	2,370	7,480
Middlesbrough	30	60	3,770	11,220
Newcastle upon Tyne	20	50	5,540	18,590
North Tyneside	30	30	4,570	14,330
Northumberland	60	120	6,400	22,230
Redcar and Cleveland	20	60	3,610	10,930
South Tyneside	10	60	3,480	11,030
Stockton-on-Tees	20	80	4,520	14,800
Sunderland	40	110	6,640	21,400
North West	1,010	2,330	138,640	527,040
Blackburn with Darwen	20	50	3,510	13,210
Blackpool	20	20	2,130	10,710
Bolton	40	50	6,170	21,310
Bury	20	60	3,730	13,910
Cheshire	100	210	11,210	50,920
Cumbria	70	150	8,700	35,350
Halton	30	100	2,230	9,360
Knowsley	10	30	4,240	13,140
Lancashire	330	490	19,660	85,400
Liverpool	20	90	9,780	33,580
Manchester	30	210	10,730	33,140
Oldham	20	40	5,410	19,050
Rochdale	40	80	4,730	17,080
Salford	10	60	5,650	17,720
Sefton	20	40	5,840	20,900
St. Helens	20	40	3,640	13,730
Stockport	50	120	6,150	22,080
Tameside	20	60	5,040	17,080
Trafford	40	100	5,080	16,820
Warrington	30	120	3,580	14,880
Wigan	40	110	5,470	23,030
Wirral	40	110	5,970	24,650
Yorkshire and the Humber	750	1,280	106,270	383,660
Barnsley	40	40	4,780	17,030
Bradford	40	80	13,540	40,480
Calderdale	40	50	4,360	16,140
Doncaster	50	90	6,720	23,040
East Riding of Yorkshire	40	100	5,150	23,360
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	60	70	5,510	19,780
Kirklees	70	100	8,390	31,000
Leeds	50	90	15,640	52,330
North East Lincolnshire	30	90	3,310	12,750
North Lincolnshire	40	90	2,820	11,900
North Yorkshire	50	90	9,150	41,220

Number of children for whom local education authorities maintain a statement of special educational needs (provisional)[1]
By local education authority and Government office region in England

	Children for whom statements were made for the first time during the calendar year 2003		Number of pupils in schools[2]	
	Aged under 5	Aged 5 to 10	Aged under 5	Aged 5 to 10
Rotherham	80	180	5,800	20,320
Sheffield	110	100	10,340	36,990
Wakefield	50	50	7,780	25,300
York	10	60	2,980	12,020
East Midlands	470	1,200	78,990	321,180
Derby	30	60	5,500	18,170
Derbyshire	90	210	14,370	55,150
Leicester	50	100	7,110	23,400
Leicestershire	80	200	7,880	46,400
Lincolnshire	110	310	10,590	47,880
Northamptonshire	80	240	11,980	51,130
Nottingham	10	30	6,530	20,750
Nottinghamshire	20	40	14,480	55,890
Rutland	10	10	560	2,430
West Midlands	760	1,740	111,720	415,160
Birmingham	260	520	25,350	86,050
Coventry	30	90	6,410	23,110
Dudley	30	80	6,560	23,760
Herefordshire	10	60	2,570	12,420
Sandwell	20	30	7,840	23,710
Shropshire	40	60	3,720	20,590
Solihull	20	70	4,900	17,350
Staffordshire	130	190	14,200	60,190
Stoke-on-Trent	20	70	5,270	17,480
Telford and Wrekin	30	60	3,520	13,240
Walsall	30	100	7,370	21,050
Warwickshire	70	120	8,600	37,410
Wolverhampton	10	100	6,460	19,050
Worcestershire	60	200	8,960	39,740
East of England	690	1,700	95,130	414,500
Bedfordshire	60	100	7,660	30,970
Cambridgeshire	100	240	8,340	40,260
Essex	90	320	19,090	100,480
Hertfordshire	150	240	25,050	83,890
Luton	30	50	4,220	15,970
Norfolk	100	280	11,890	55,240
Peterborough	20	110	2,580	13,430
Southend-on-Sea	20	60	3,030	13,190
Suffolk	110	230	10,600	49,570
Thurrock	20	90	2,680	11,500
London	1,170	2,470	167,910	544,160
Inner London	370	980	69,740	202,410
Camden	20	110	4,260	12,520
City of London	0	0	70	420
Hackney	40	70	5,840	16,680
Hammersmith and Fulham	30	70	3,410	9,070
Haringey	40	100	5,840	17,480
Islington	20	30	4,000	12,140
Kensington and Chelsea	20	20	3,170	10,190
Lambeth	20	110	5,920	16,600
Lewisham	20	60	5,700	18,310
Newham	#	30	8,790	23,820
Southwark	40	140	6,720	19,910
Tower Hamlets	50	110	6,310	16,680
Wandsworth	50	90	6,110	17,760
Westminster	20	50	3,610	10,850
Outer London	800	1,490	98,170	341,760
Barking and Dagenham	70	50	4,440	14,300
Barnet	30	40	6,810	22,790
Bexley	40	100	4,820	17,800
Brent	40	100	5,800	18,890
Bromley	50	70	4,750	22,860
Croydon	60	130	7,600	27,020
Ealing	50	100	7,260	22,600

Number of children for whom local education authorities maintain a statement of special educational needs (provisional)[1]
By local education authority and Government office region in England

	Children for whom statements were made for the first time during the calendar year 2003		*Number of pupils in schools*[2]	
	Aged under 5	*Aged 5 to 10*	*Aged under 5*	*Aged 5 to 10*
Enfield	60	110	5,970	22,680
Greenwich	60	70	5,620	17,150
Harrow	30	90	3,840	15,900
Havering	40	50	3,840	17,550
Hillingdon	40	90	6,740	20,130
Hounslow	60	130	4,790	15,250
Kingston upon Thames	20	40	3,100	10,500
Merton	30	60	4,490	12,140
Redbridge	30	80	6,150	20,820
Richmond upon Thames	20	30	3,370	12,930
Sutton	40	70	3,790	12,930
Waltham Forest	30	100	5,010	17,520
Southeast	1,120	1,900	124,750	604,210
Bracknell Forest	30	50	1,690	8,380
Brighton and Hove	30	40	4,170	16,000
Buckinghamshire	100	120	8,160	39,000
East Sussex	70	90	6,950	35,010
Hampshire	140	220	17,200	93,850
Isle of Wight	10	10	1,560	9,150
Kent	150	170	19,900	105,250
Medway	30	90	3,870	21,170
Milton Keynes	20	70	3,990	17,080
Oxfordshire	60	160	8,630	44,560
Portsmouth	20	60	2,950	13,660
Reading	20	40	2,520	9,340
Slough	20	40	3,130	9,310
Southampton	20	20	2,850	14,930
Surrey	200	330	19,650	80,990
West Berkshire	30	30	2,370	11,170
West Sussex	110	250	10,640	54,360
Windsor and Maidenhead	30	40	2,330	9,930
Wokingham	20	60	2,190	12,090
South west	570	1,280	72,490	356,360
Bath and north east Somerset	20	60	2,400	11,920
Bournemouth	10	30	2,100	10,070
Bristol, City of	50	70	8,140	26,490
Cornwall	70	240	7,490	34,810
Devon	80	180	9,840	49,180
Dorset	60	80	4,720	26,900
Gloucestershire	40	170	7,320	42,560
Isles of Scilly	0	0	30	130
North Somerset	20	20	2,490	13,260
Plymouth	40	90	3,830	17,770
Poole	10	20	1,600	9,030
Somerset	30	30	6,910	37,080
South Gloucestershire	50	50	3,930	20,130
Swindon	20	50	2,960	14,550
Torbay	30	100	2,260	8,800
Wiltshire	50	110	6,470	33,690

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, therefore there may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and the total shown.
[2] Total number of pupils in schools in each local education authority as at January 2003. These figures reflect the location of the school rather than the home residence of the pupils.
less than 5 pupils.
Source:
SEN2 Survey 2004 and the Annual Schools' Census 2003

Student Debt

Virginia Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will estimate the number of students in higher education from *(a)* south west Surrey, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England; and what the estimated (i) average and (ii) overall student debt (A) was in (1) 1997 and (2) the most recent period for which figures are available and (B) will be in 2011. [177369]

Alan Johnson: The latest available figures for 2002/03 from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show that there were 19,080 full-time undergraduates from Surrey and 793,895 from England; the number from south west Surrey is not held centrally.

The table shows the average student loan debt, at the point at which they entered repayment status, for UK borrowers in financial years 1997–98 and 2003–04. Data

exclude any voluntary repayments made before a borrower enters repayment status, however included are both hardship loans and any interest accrued up to the point of the borrower being liable to repay.

Average student loan debt on entering repayment status (rounded to nearest £10)

	Financial year entered repayment status[1]	
	1997–98	2003–04[2]
Mortgage-Style loans	2,290	6,110
Income-Contingent loans	n/a	7,200
Part-time loans[3]	n/a	650
All loans[4]	n/a	7,110

[1] Borrowers may have accounts in more than one cohort year of entering repayment status.
[2] 2003–04 figures are slightly different to those given in a previous answer, due to revised information being provided by SLC.
[3] Fixed-rate loans made to eligible part-time students introduced in September 2000.
[4] Borrowers can have more than one type of loan—figures on all loan types are calculated from a count of individuals.
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Borrowers are liable to repay their loans from the April following graduation or otherwise leaving their course. Borrowers entering repayment status include those who attended shorter courses as well as those who have left higher education before completing their courses. Therefore the average level of debt will not be representative of the average debt experienced by those who complete their courses.

The latest Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2002/03, which covered young, single, childless, full-time undergraduate students in higher education institutions in England and Wales found that final year students' average anticipated total debt on graduation was £8,666 in 2002/03. This included student loans, overdrafts, credit cards, commercial loans and informal loans. Detailed projections for 2011 are not available. Figures provided by SLC show the total amount outstanding in respect of UK student loans at the end of financial year 1997–98 was £3,574 million. At the end of financial year 2002–03 the amount outstanding was £12,255 million, including £1,428 million repayable to the private sector following the sale of two tranches of student loans. The figures include interest and loans not due for repayment at that time. 2002–03 figures are provisional. Detailed projections for 2011 are not available.

Student Loans Company

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many erroneous letters the Student Loans Company Ltd. has sent to Miss Laura Morley of Chippenham, Wiltshire; how much each letter cost; and what steps he advises her to take to end the correspondence; [180308]

(2) when he last met Mr. Seymour-Jackson to discuss Miss Laura Morley; and if he will make a statement. [180310]

Alan Johnson: I have frequent meetings with Mr. Seymour-Jackson of the Student Loans Company (SLC). This case was not discussed specifically as it is an administrative issue that was dealt with internally at the SLC. I understand that around 40 system generated letters were issued wrongly at a total cost of £10. Miss Morley's data has been corrected to ensure no further incorrect letters are issued. The SLC have apologised to Miss Morley who does not need to take any further action to end the correspondence.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with Mr. Seymour-Jackson of the Student Loans Company Ltd. about its IT systems. [180309]

Alan Johnson: I have met with Mr. Seymour-Jackson of the Student Loans Company Ltd. over recent months to discuss the new IT system being introduced this year for the assessment of student finance applications in England and Wales. We last met on 9 June 2004 and have future meetings planned.

Summer Holiday Funding

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what level of funding is to be made available to support young people during the summer holiday period; and how the funding will be allocated. [180829]

Alan Johnson: There is a range of financial support for young people in further education, including the Education Maintenance Allowance and the Learner Support Fund, but these are not paid over the summer holiday period. The Department does provide for support for disadvantaged young people during academic holidays through activities funded under the Positive Activities for Young People Programme and the Neighbourhood Support Fund.

Young people who live independently may be eligible for a range of benefits through the Department of Work and Pensions, and these are likely to be paid throughout the academic year, including holidays. Young people who live at home are considered as dependent on parental support and will not be entitled to benefits during holidays.

Sure Start

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of families made contact with their local Sure Start programme within the first two months after a birth in the last year for which figures are available. [179421]

Margaret Hodge: In 2002–03, the latest full year for which data are available, fully operational Sure Start local programmes reported visiting 95 per cent. of babies within two months of their birth.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Administrative Costs

Mr. Alan Duncan: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the administrative costs of the Department and its predecessors were in each financial year since 1996–97. [180319]

Mr. Lammy: Total administration costs (net) for the Department, which covers costs for the Court Service, the Public Guardianship Office and DCA Headquarters was as per the following table:

	£000
2003–04	756,475
2002–03	726,916
2001–02	605,004
2000–01	570,076
1999–2000	513,697
1998–99	454,170

Resource Accounting and systems to capture resource data were first introduced in 1998–99 and the 1999–2000 Departmental Resource Accounts were the first to be published.

Figures for financial years 1999–2000 to 2002–03 are in line with the published Resource Accounts. The total figure for 2003–04 is provisional, pending the final publication of the Resource Accounts for 2003–04.

There has been a steady increase in administration costs, which is mainly attributed to the increase in workload for the Department as a result of the additional funding that has been received since 2001–02 for the increasing criminal case workload. Also, additional funding has been received since 2002–03 for the roll-out of the Libra IT structure to the magistrate courts and the growth of asylum appeal cases.

Information on previous years is not readily available.

Lords Reform

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent discussions the Department has had with the *(a)* Welsh Assembly and *(b)* Scottish Executive on Lords reform. [180724]

Mr. Leslie: None. The Government decided in March not to proceed with the planned House of Lords Reform Bill. They return to the issue in their manifesto.

MERIT Programme

John Mann: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many magistrates, judges and magistrates clerks have been sent to see at first hand the Australian MERIT programme and drugs courts. [180290]

Mr. Leslie: Statutory responsibility for the training of magistrates currently rests with the 42 independent Magistrates Courts Committees (MCCs). There are no central data collected on the specific information requested. However, a survey undertaken by the Justices' Clerks' Society (JCS) last year, showed that most magistrates have had access to training on Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO). The survey also revealed a general desire from magistrates for more information to made available to them and as a consequence a video and pamphlet was produced by DrugScope on behalf of the Criminal Justice Intervention Programme (CJIP). These materials were distributed to all magistrates courts and the Judicial Studies Board is currently preparing further guidance materials for magistrates on drugs issues. The development of material has been informed by a wide variety of external sources, including the experience of the MERIT programme.

Rejected Votes (General Elections)

John Barrett: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many votes have been rejected for want of the official mark in each general election since 1979. [180516]

Mr. Leslie: The number of votes that have been rejected for want of the official mark in each general election since 1979 is as follows:

General election	*UK*	*England*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1979	3,282	2,034	293	804	151
1983	2,819	1,698	166	709	246
1987	2,408	1,463	76	599	270
1992	2,593	1,381	123	660	429
1997	2,169	1,238	124	482	325
2001	2,548	1,486	142	686	234

Sources:

1. 1979–97 statistics obtained from Appendix 1 of the Appendices to Minutes of Evidence (Volume II) to the Select Committee on Home Affairs.

2. 2001 statistics obtained from the Electoral Commission document; postal votes, proxy votes and spoilt ballot papers at the 2001 general election.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Laryngectomy (Benefits)

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he offers to adjudicators for the assessment of disability caused by laryngectomy in the award of *(a)* attendance and *(b)* disability living allowance. [180746]

Maria Eagle: Attendance allowance and disability living allowance are paid as a contribution towards the extra costs of severely disabled people. Entitlement to the benefits is not based on disability itself, but depends on the extent to which disability gives rise to the need for personal care or supervision from another person and in the case of disability living allowance, on the effect that disability has on a person's ability to walk. Decision makers dealing with claims for the benefits have access to guidance about laryngectomy from a number of sources. These include the Disability Handbook produced by the Department's Corporate Medical Group, "DLAAB Update" published by the Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board, and doctors from the Department's Medical Services.

Benefit Fraud

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of benefit fraud were detected in Greater London in each of the last five years; and how many of these have resulted in *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions. [177181]

Mr. Pond: The number of cases of benefit fraud detected is not available. The number of cases resulting in prosecution and conviction are in the tables.

Department for Work and Pensions London Region

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
2002–03	1,155	852
2003–04	978	782

Notes

1. From 1 April 2002, DWP delivery organisations were restructured from 13 administration areas to 11 regions. Prior to that date, London counter-fraud operations were divided between three areas, each of which was responsible for a part of Greater London, but also counties outside of London. It is therefore not possible to provide data for fraud operations in Greater London for that period. Data since 1 April 2002 is shown below and relates to the DWP London Region, which is not entirely coterminous with the Greater London Area.
2. The figures for 2002–03 included some successful cases from the former Area Directorates during the period of transition to the new regional structure.
3. "Prosecutions" refers to the number of cases forwarded to solicitors and accepted by them for prosecution.
4. In 2003–04 reporting rules changed for instrument of payment investigations. Previously each offence was recorded, now each defendant is shown. Thus, a defendant committing five offences is recorded as a single case, not 5 cases.

Source:

Fraud Information By Sector database

London local authorities

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
1997–98	N/A	180
1998–99	N/A	193
1999–2000	N/A	111
2000–01	N/A	119
2001–02	312	216
2002–03	372	294

Notes:

1. "Prosecutions" refers to the number of summonses issued by local authorities.
2. Data on the number of summonses issued by local authorities is not available prior to 2001–02.
3. Data on the number of convictions for financial years 1997–98 to 2000–01 is not available for all local authorities. The total for London boroughs includes estimates for local authorities that have not responded. These estimates are based on historical and regional data. This type of estimate is standard practice in reporting totals where there have been non-respondents.
4. Figures for convictions may refer to summonses issued in previous years.

Source:

The data from 2001–02 on only includes actual reported prosecutions for which rewards were claimed under the SAFE or modified WBS schemes. Prior to this the numbers are taken from management information returns.

Benefit Payments

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed *(a)* council tax benefit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* housing benefit and council tax benefit in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in the last three years; how many domestic council tax payers there were in each year; and what percentage of council tax payers claimed council tax benefit. [180444]

Mr. Pond: The available information is in the table.

Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) recipients, and CTB recipients as a percentage of chargeable dwellings in Newcastle upon Tyne

	HB	*CTB*	*CTB recipients as a percentage of chargeable dwellings*
November 2001	31,100	34,100	30.4
November 2002	30,900	33,600	30.0
November 2003	29,600	32,800	29.4

Notes

1. The caseload data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, and the percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Council Tax Benefit totals exclude any Second Adult Rebate cases.
4. Housing Benefit totals exclude Extended Payments cases.
5. It is not possible to determine the number receiving both HB and CTB as this data is taken from a 1 per cent. sample and cannot be split lower than Government Office Region level due to the high level of sampling variation.
6. The number of Council Tax payers is not available and the closest definition to this is the number of chargeable dwellings. Each chargeable dwelling is liable for one Council Tax bill.

Source:

1. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100per cent caseload stock-count taken in November 2001, 2002 and 2003.
2. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister—numbers of chargeable dwellings from local authority returns at November 2001, 2002 and 2003.

British Sign Language

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what organisations have received grants from his Department to promote British Sign Language in the last three years; [180602]

(2) how much has been spent on grants by his Department to promote British Sign Language in the last three years; [180603]

(3) what organisations he consulted in the last three years before distributing grants to promote British Sign Language; and if he will make a statement. [180604]

Maria Eagle: On 4 May I announced that the Department was putting in place a programme of work to support the Government's position statement on British Sign Language (BSL). Funding of £1.5 million has been awarded to the following 10 lead organisations: the British Deaf Association; the Centre for Deaf People Leicester; the Centre for Deaf Studies—University of Bristol; Christian Deaf Link; Consortium of Assessment and Training Providers; BSL Consortium—UK Council on Deafness; Deafplus; Leeds University; National Deaf Children's Society; Remark!. The contracts will leave a legacy of improved access to training for BSL tutors and increased awareness of the language.

The Department established a BSL working group to advise, among other things, on priorities for allocating the additional funding described. Organisations represented on the group are the British Deaf Association; the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People; the Federation of Deaf People; The National Deaf Children's Society; The Royal National Institute for Deaf People; The UK Council on Deafness.

Earlier contracts to the value of £444,000 were awarded to the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People to increase the number of BSL interpreters and to improve the training and assessment infrastructure for interpreters.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants and what percentage of the total Civil Service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180170]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, volume 422, column 1292–93W.

Community Service Orders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on schemes to reduce the benefits of people who breach their community service orders; and how much benefit was withdrawn in each year as a result. [177538]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the tables.

Amount of benefit withdrawn by benefit and tax year

(£000)

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Jobseeker's Allowance	3,000	54,000	55,000
Income Support	1,000	20,000	27,000
Total	4,000	74,000	82,000

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Data is based on clerical returns received at the Information Centre, IAD between 15 October 2001 and 15 May 2004. However the benefit loss figures are calculated using the period 15 May 2001–13 February 2004 and are the latest figures available at this time.
3. A number of offenders have been sanctioned more than once and are therefore counted for each sanction in these figures.
4. The Community Order and Withdrawal of Benefits pilot came into force on 15 October 2001 and as such the 2001–02 tax year represents the period 15 October 2001 to 31st March 2002.
5. The latest figures available for withdrawal of benefit is 20 February 2004 and as such the 2003–04 tax year represents the period 1st April 2003 to 20 February 2004.

Source:

Information Centre, IAD DWP

DWP costs of administration of Community Service Pilot

(£000)

Year	
2000–01	61,000
2001–02	253,000
2002–03	121,000
2003–04	226,000
Total	661,000

Note:

The overall costs are financial year-end figures. These figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and include the one-off initial start-up costs (approximately £262,000), the bulk of which was for the IT development necessary to implement the measures

Departmental Administration Budgets

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made towards the 5 per cent. reduction in real terms in his Department's administration budget by 2008 announced by the Chancellor in the House on 17 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 331. [176503]

Maria Eagle: The real terms reduction of 5 per cent. or more will be a central feature of the public spending settlements for 2006–08 to be announced in detail later this year.

Departmental Offices

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Pension Service, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus and *(c)* Social Security offices there are in the United Kingdom. [177382]

Maria Eagle: The information is not held in the format requested. However, the Department occupies 1,746 buildings in Great Britain. Of these, The Pension Service is the major occupier in 44 buildings and Jobcentre Plus is the major occupier in 1,554. The major occupiers of the remaining 148 buildings are Child Support Agency, The Appeals Service, Disability and Carers Service or the Department's Corporate Centre.

Information about buildings in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Injuries Advisory Council Report

Liz Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will publish his response to the Injuries Advisory Council Report on Prescribed Disease A11. [180196]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State received the report by the Industrial Injuries Council on Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome in March 2004. This report recommends certain changes to the terms of prescription for Prescribed Disease A11. The report contains a comprehensive review of the current science and medicine.

We are still carefully considering the full implications of the report. We hope to be in a position to publish the report in the near future.

Pensioner Poverty

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners have an income below the mean net income. [177912]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is in the table.

	Number (million)	*Percentage*
Pensioners with household incomes less than mean income (2002–03)		
Before housing costs	8.0	80
After housing costs	7.5	75
All individuals with household incomes less than mean income (2002–03)		
Before housing costs	37	65
After housing costs	36	64

Notes:

1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) dataset which is derived from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Figures do not included Northern Ireland and 2002–03 is the latest year available.

2. The income measure used in HBAI is weekly net (disposable), equivalised household income (that is to say income that is adjusted to reflect household size and composition).

3. The estimates are sample counts, which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors that control for region, council tax band and a number of other demographic values. Estimates are subject to both sampling error and variability in non-response. All percentages are rounded to the nearest per cent.

4. The estimates are presented on both a Before Housing Costs (BHC) and an After Housing Costs (AHC) basis in line with HBAI conventions.

5. An adjustment is made to sample cases at the top of the distribution to correct for volatility in the highest incomes captured in the survey. This adjustment uses data from the Inlands Revenue's Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) to control the number and income levels of the very rich while retaining the FRS data on the characteristics of their household.

Pensioners (Benefits)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pensioners his Department estimates *(a)* were eligible for means-tested benefits and *(b)* were claiming means-tested benefits in each year since 1997, broken down by benefit. [177546]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information that is available is provided in the table.

Table 1: Percentage of GB pensioners that were either in receipt or were entitled to but not receiving the following entitlements

Percentage

Financial year	*Income support/ minimum income guarantee*	*Housing benefit*	*Council tax benefit*
1997–98	(21:26)	(23:25)	(41:45)
1998–99	(21:25)	(23:24)	(42:45)
1999–2000	(21:25)	(22:24)	(42:46)
2000–01	(22:25)	(21:23)	(41:45)
2001–02	(25:28)	(22:23)	(45:49)

Notes:

1. The estimates are presented as estimated entitled non-recipients ranges to reflect the uncertainty in the number of based on DWP Family Resources Survey data.

2. Latest estimates available relate to financial year 2001–02.

3. Pensioners are defined as either a single person aged at least 60 or, if within a couple, at least one person is aged 60 years or over.

4. Pensioners in residential care and nursing homes are excluded from the figures.

Information requested on percentage of pensioners receiving income related benefits since 1997 is in the tables.

It should be noted that there are overlaps between some benefits, individual benefit counts should not be added together to give a total number of pensioners on income related benefit. The following table therefore provided details of the total number of pensioners receiving each entitlement.

Table 1: Pensioner beneficiaries of means-tested Benefits[1] as a percentage of the population: Great Britain May 1997 to May 2002

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over of means-tested benefits	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	3,810,000	32.5
1998	3,670,000	31.1
1999	3,540,000	29.9
2000	3,420,000	28.7
2001	3,380,000	28.3
2002	3,290,000	27.4

Table 2: Income support (MIG)

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	1,903,000	16.2
1998	1,830,000	15.5
1999	1,789,000	15.1
2000	1,784,000	15.0
2001	1,907,000	16.0
2002	1,945,000	16.2

Table 3: Income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA (IB))

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	10,000	0.1
1998	8,000	0.1
1999	8,000	0.1
2000	7,000	0.1
2001	5,000	0.0
2002	7,000	0.1

Table 4: Family credit (FC)

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	3,000	0.0
1998	3,000	0.0
1999	2,000	0.0

Table 5: Disability working allowance (DWA)

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	850	0.0
1998	465	0.0
1999	530	0.0

Table 6: Housing benefit (HB)

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	2,194,000	18.7
1998	2,146,000	18.2
1999	2,070,000	17.5
2000	1,977,000	16.6
2001	1,939,000	16.2
2002	1,888,000	15.7

Table 7: Community charge (CCB) or council tax benefit (CTB)

	Beneficiaries aged 60 and over	*Percentage of the population aged 60 and over*
1997	3,229,000	27.5
1998	3,169,000	26.9
1999	3,075,000	26.0
2000	2,917,000	24.5
2001	2,891,000	24.2
2002	2,834,000	23.6

Notes:
1. Means tested benefits included in table 1 are IS (MIG), JSA (IB), HB and /CTB
2. Figures for years 1997–99 exclude small number of DWA and FC cases.
3. Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
4. Great Britain HB/CTB figures include estimates for local authorities that have not responded.
5. CTB data excludes Second Adult Rebate cases.
6. HB data excludes any Extended Payment cases.
7. The Percentage for population in receipt of benefit is based on the ONS mid 2002 population estimates of all persons aged 60 and over, for those years
8. Figures (except DWA) are based on 1 per cent. and 5 per cent. samples and therefore subject to sampling variation.
9. IS, JSA, HB, CTB and FC beneficiaries figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and DWA is rounded to the nearest 5. [tables 2–7]
10. Beneficiaries of a benefit unit are the sum of claimants and their partners.
11. Figures for years 1997–99 exclude small number of DWA and FC cases.

Source:
IAD Information Centre, 100 per cent., 5 per cent. and 1 per cent. sample.

Potters Bar Rail Accident

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Health and Safety Executive to conclude its investigations into the Potters Bar rail accident; and if he will make a statement on the HSE's work to date. [177804]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Safety Executive advise that their investigation into the Potters Bar rail accident, which is continuing, is expected to conclude in September or October 2004.

Self-storage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive has received representations concerning the storage of hazards in self-storage sites; and if he will make a statement. [179736]

Jane Kennedy: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has received one representation regarding storage of hazards in self-storage sites from Derbyshire District Council, relating to an explosion which had occurred at Macaravans Ltd, Trent Lane, Kings Newton, Melbourne, Derbyshire on 19 May 2004

Social Security Appeals

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social security appeal decisions have not been implemented by executive agencies linked to his Department in each of the last three years. [180559]

Maria Eagle: In law the circumstances when a decision of a social security appeal tribunal will not be implemented are: (i) when the Secretary of State is granted leave to appeal the decision to the Social Security and Child Support Commissioners; (ii) when the decision is set aside and the appeal re-heard; and, (iii), where the tribunal's decision is made in ignorance or mistake as to material fact and is superseded. The number of appeals is in the table. Information about set aside and decisions superseded is not available.

	Appeals to the Commissioners
2001–02	68
2002–03	57
2003–04	110

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many senior citizens in Tamworth have benefited from the winter fuel allowance since 1997. [179964]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of senior citizens in the Tamworth constituency who have benefited from a winter fuel payment in each year since 1999–2000 (including provisional figures for 2003–04) is in the table. Information relating to the 1997–98 and 1998–99 winters is not available.

	Payments made
1999–2000	12,515
2000–01	14,475
2001–02	14,845
2002–03	15,225
2003–04	15,575

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Please note that the figures for 2003–04 refer only to the main payment run, i.e. they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid via late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payments made in late payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the Qualifying Week, most are to men aged 60.

Source:
IAD Information Centre, 100 per cent. samples.

Work Incentives (Homeless Households)

Ms Oona King: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what measures he plans to introduce to increase work incentives for statutorily homeless households placed in temporary accommodation. [178738]

Mr. Pond *[pursuant to my reply 21 June 2004, Official Report, c. 1263W]:* Homeless people who are at a distinct disadvantage in the labour market, and who are claiming benefits, are entitled to early access to the range of help available from Jobcentre Plus, such as the New Deal. This includes those statutorily homeless households placed in temporary accommodation. In addition, Jobcentre Plus is also piloting specialised support for clients who have additional barriers to work including homelessness. These pilots are aimed at

helping homeless people, alcohol misusers and offenders move into work. There are progress2work-LinkUp pilots based in 23 Jobcentre Plus Districts.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Disadvantaged Children

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of disadvantaged children live in the 20 per cent. most deprived wards in England. [179420]

Yvette Cooper: 54.26 per cent. of children living in households which are reliant on means tested benefits, live in the 20 per cent. most deprived wards based on data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000.

Advisers (North-east Lincolnshire)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the advisers seconded to North East Lincolnshire are able to *(a)* accept and *(b)* propose cuts in spending on education. [179887]

Mr. Raynsford: The Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) currently has no staff seconded to North East Lincolnshire council. ODPM is providing funding to allow the council to employ interim staff to provide help and expertise in developing their financial systems. The interim staff are not in a position to decide cuts in any service or corporate budget. Only the council can decide how and where it will make savings.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many civil servants and what percentage of the total Civil Service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180182]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1292–93W.

Correspondence

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter of 19 February, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Withington, on behalf of his constituent, Mr. Alan Gellion. [180705]

Yvette Cooper: I replied to this letter on 25 June.

Council House Waiting Lists

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the waiting lists were for council housing in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* Chorley, broken down by (i) houses, (ii) flats and (iii) old age pensioner bungalows, in each of the last five years. [180422]

Keith Hill: Local authority figures supplied to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister show the total number of households on the housing registers in Chorley, Lancashire and the North West are as follows.

	Chorley	*Lancashire (including Chorley)*	*North West (including Chorley)*
1999	869	21,715	118,829
2000	1,050	21,832	116,937
2001	1,017	18,450	112,405
2002	1,017	20,119	121,213
2003	1,323	26,879	155,702

This data cannot be further disaggregated to match the categories requested.

Council Housing

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister, how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of Birkenhead since 1997. [166214]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 21 April 2004, Official Report, c. 493 W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Wirral allocations, which include Birkenhead, in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 60 per cent. In addition to this welcome increase there is support through the Community Housing Task Force and Government Office for the North West to help the local authority and its tenants to choose the best strategy for long-term improvement.

Mr. Ben Chapman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the effect of changes in the level of council funding for housing upon residents of Wirral South since 1997. [166635]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 21 April 2004, Official Report, c. 493W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Wirral's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 60 per cent. In addition to this welcome increase there is support through the Community Housing Task Force and Government Office for the North West to help the local authority and its tenants to choose the best strategy for long-term improvement.

Decent Homes Standard (London)

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his latest estimate is of the number of council dwellings in London that reach the Decent Homes Standard, broken down by London borough. [180332]

Keith Hill: The following table illustrates the numbers of local authority owned dwellings in London classed as decent, as reported on the 2003 Housing Investment Programme (HIP) Business Plan Statistical Appendices.

Authority	Number LA dwellings that are decent at 2003	Total LA dwellings
Barking and Dagenham	9,200	21,800
Barnet	6,700	11,600
Brent	5,000	10,200
Camden	9,400	25,700
City of London	900	2,000
Croydon	8,900	14,800
Ealing	10,100	14,600
Enfield	8,800	12,800
Greenwich	4,800	26,700
Hackney	8,000	26,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,800	13,900
Haringey	7,600	18,100
Harrow	2,600	5,300
Havering	7,700	11,500
Hillingdon	7,900	11,400
Hounslow	5,300	14,600
Islington	11,000	30,100
Kensington and Chelsea	2,900	7,100
Kingston upon Thames	2,600	5,000
Lambeth	19,100	33,800
Lewisham	11,100	28,600
Merton	4,700	7,000
Newham	11,200	21,800
Redbridge	3,700	5,000
Southwark	23,800	46,100
Sutton	4,800	8,300
Tower Hamlets	6,200	24,500
Waltham Forest	1,200	11,200
Wandsworth	15,900	18,100
Westminster	4,100	13,000

Deprived Wards

Mr. Willis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the 20 per cent. most deprived wards in the country. [180788]

Yvette Cooper: It is only possible to list the 20 per cent. most deprived wards with reference to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 (IMD 2000), which is now very out-of-date. Data on the IMD 2000 can be accessed on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website at: www.odpm.gov.uk/indices

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004), revised on 17 June 2004, does not provide information on deprivation at ward level. The IMD 2004 has been produced at Super Output Area Lower Layer (SOA) level to transcend problems experienced with wards. Wards are not consistent in size, covering anything from 800 to 35,000 people. They are also subject to frequent ward boundary changes. SOAs, on the other hand, cover between 1,000 and 3,000 people and are designed to last for approximately 20 years. Following a wide public consultation in 2003, it was decided that producing the IMD at SOA level would provide consistency both in terms of size of population and over time.

A table providing a list of authorities with SOAs that fall within the 20 per cent. most deprived in the country has been made available in the Library of the House.

Election Turnout

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the turnout was as a percentage of eligible voters at the local elections on *(a)* 10 June and *(b)* the previous comparable local election date, broken down by region. [179694]

Mr. Raynsford: Based on data supplied so far by Local Returning Officers, the turnout as a percentage of eligible voters at the local elections in England on 10 June by regions is as follows: East 37.54 per cent., East Midlands 44.52 per cent., North East 44.30 per cent., North West 43.10 per cent., South East 37.76 per cent., South West 38.15 per cent., West Midlands 36.56 per cent. and Yorks and Humber 42.23 per cent.

The average for the previous comparable local elections were as follows: East 31.84 per cent., East Midlands 33.65 per cent., North East 44.61 per cent., North West 31.70 per cent., South East 30.90 per cent., South West 32.68 per cent., West Midlands 29.88 per cent. and Yorks and Humber 33.45 per cent..

Homeless Households

Matthew Green: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many homeless households in priority need were in temporary accommodation on *(a)* 1 May 1997 and *(b)* 1 May 2004, broken down by Government Office Region. [179944]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities report information on their activities under homelessness legislation quarterly, and this includes the number of homeless households in various forms of temporary accommodation as on the last day of the quarter. The position in each Government Office region as at 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2004 is tabled as follows.

Homeless households[1] in all forms of temporary accommodation, by Government Office Region

	31 March 1997	31 March 2004
North East	480	770
North West	2,100	2,830
Yorkshire and Humber	1,000	2,400
East Midlands	1,380	2,820
West Midlands	1,070	2,140
Eastern	2,600	8,220
London	24,060	59,170
South East	6,390	12,790
South West	2,210	6,150
England[2]	41,250	97,290

[1] Households in accommodation arranged by local authorities pending inquiries or after being accepted under homelessness legislation.

[2] Totals may not equal the sum of components because of rounding.

Source:

ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly)

The definition of households in priority need was changed in the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002 to widen the categories of households eligible for support.

Matthew Green: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will list the local authorities that failed to submit a P1E return with the number of homeless households in priority need placed in temporary accommodation for the most recent quarterly statistics; and if he will make a statement; [179945]

(2) what measures he has taken to ensure that all local authorities submit a P1E return detailing the number of homeless households in priority need they have placed in temporary accommodation. [179947]

Yvette Cooper: The Supplementary Table which was published along with the Statistical Release for the first quarter of 2004 on 16 June shows the following sixteen authorities had not provided a P1E return by the time final analyses were prepared:

Region	
North West:	Fylde, Warrington
East Midlands:	Chesterfield, Hinckley and Bosworth, Lincoln
West Midlands:	Stratford on Avon, Tamworth
East of England:	Castle Point, Mid Suffolk[1], Southend on Sea
London:	Ealing, Islington[1], Kingston upon Thames[1]
South East:	Medway[1], Rother[1]
South West:	Isle of Scilly[1]

[1] indicates that a return was subsequently received, and after validation the reported information will be added to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's database.

The proportion of local authorities submitting PIE returns by closedown has improved from around 90 per cent. two years ago to around 95 per cent. in the past two quarters. The measures taken by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to encourage authorities to submit P1E returns have been three-fold:

1. Authorities receive three-emailed reminders before, on and after the due submission date (which is three weeks after the end of each quarter), and by regular telephone calls in the weeks prior to final closedown. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Interform system, which enables authorities to submit returns electronically, has made the process more efficient and currently around 93 per cent. of authorities have chosen this method.

2. The Housing Data and Statistics Division of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have been conducting regional seminars on the completion of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's housing and planning statistical returns, including the P1E, which have been well attended.

3. The timely submission of a P1E return is now also one of the conditions for receipt of homelessness grant.

Matthew Green: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average length of time a homeless household in temporary accommodation in each Government Office Region had to wait before being made an offer of a permanent *(a)* one-bed, *(b)* two-bed, *(c)* three-bed and *(d)* four-bed or more home in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2004. [179946]

Yvette Cooper: Information reported by local authorities on their activities under homelessness legislation includes a breakdown of time, by broad time-bands, spent by households in temporary accommodation prior to the authorities' duty coming to an end. This specific information was collected for the first time with effect from the March quarter of 1997, and consequently data quality for this period may be less robust than for later periods. Estimates for latest comparable dates in 1997 and 2004 are tabled as follows.

Average length of stay (in days) by homeless households[1] in all forms of temporary accommodation, by Government Office Region

	31 March 1997	*31 March 2004*
North East	91	170
North West	91	164
Yorkshire and Humber	91	239
East Midlands	93	181
West Midlands	97	116
Eastern	102	254
London	91	381
South East	110	298
South West	174	323
England	98	267

[1] Households that, during the quarter, left accommodation provided by local authorities under homelessness legislation.

Source:
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly)

Homeless People

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people have been homeless in *(a)* Lancashire, broken down by district and *(b)* the North West in each of the last three years. [180423]

Yvette Cooper: Information collected about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is in respect of households, rather than persons. A summary of available information reported by each local authority in Lancashire about the number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and corresponding estimates for the North West Government Office region, is tabled as follows:

Households accepted as homeless[1]

Unitary/District Authority	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Blackburn with Darwen UA	224	332	376
Blackpool UA	126	159	235
Burnley	328	290	224
Chorley	127	118	187
Fylde	[2]17	14	[2]28
Hyndburn	187	232	288
Lancaster	268	364	431
Pendle	69	68	154
Preston	[2]74	172	308
Ribble Valley	31	51	78
Rossendale	225	244	175
South Ribble	224	232	312
West Lancashire	78	87	68
Wyre	121	98	122
All Lancashire authorities	2,099	2,461	2,986
North West GO Region	13,280	15,020	18,010

Notes:
[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation and found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category.
[2] Indicates three quarters reported.

Note:
Regional totals include estimates for partial or non-response.

Source:
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly)

Housing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of Crosby since 1997. [160567]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to his reply, 16 March 2004, Official Report, c. 219W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Sefton's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 112 per cent. In addition to this welcome increase there is support through the Community Housing Task Force and Government Office for the North West to help the local authority and its tenants to choose the best strategy for long term improvement.

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of Wigan since 1997. [169267]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 5 May 2004, Official Report, c. 1601W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Wigan's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 566 per cent. Wigan and Leigh Housing, an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO), was set up on 1 April 2002 to manage and maintain council homes on behalf of Wigan council.

Mr. Benton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of Bootle since 1997. [170076]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 30 April 2004, Official Report, c. 1331W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Sefton's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 112 per cent. and have been supplemented by the announcement of £86 million to be made available to the Merseyside Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder, NewHeartlands, between 2003–04 and 2005–06. In addition to this, there is support through the Community Housing Task Force and Government Office for the North West to help the local authority and its tenants to choose the best strategy for long-term improvement.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of Heywood and Middleton since 1997. [168432]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 27 April 2004, Official Report, c. 880W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Rochdale's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 352 per cent., and have been supplemented by the announcement of £53.5 million to be made available to the Oldham/Rochdale Housing Market Renewal pathfinder project between 2003–04 and 2005–06.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect of the change in the level of council funding for housing on the residents of Manchester, Gorton since 1997. [167463]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 26 April 2004, Official Report, c. 787W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Manchester's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 119 per cent., and have been supplemented by the announcement of £125 million to be made available to the Manchester/Salford Housing Market Renewal pathfinder project between 2003–04 and 2005–06. In addition to this welcome increase there is support through the Community Housing Task Force and Government Office for the North West to help the local authority and its tenants to choose the best strategy for long-term improvement.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of Oldham, West and Royton since 1997. [170877]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to the reply, 5 May 2004, Official Report, c. 1602W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. Oldham's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 331 per cent. following the creation of First Choice Homes Oldham, an Arms Length Management Organisation which manages and maintains council properties on behalf of Oldham council. These allocations have been supplemented by the announcement of £53.5 million to be made available to the Oldham/Rochdale Housing Market Renewal pathfinder project between 2003–04 and 2005–06.

Mr. Pickthall: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on his assessment of how the change in the level of council funding for housing has affected the residents of West Lancashire since 1997. [171546]

Keith Hill *[pursuant to my reply, 10 May 2004, Official Report, c. 103W]:* Since 1997 allocations of capital funding to local authorities for housing purposes have risen consistently by about 15 per cent. per annum on average. This includes the Major Repairs Allowance we introduced in 2001–02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the

Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010. West Lancashire's allocations in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04 have risen by 204 per cent. In addition to this welcome increase there has been support through the Community Housing Task Force and Government Office for the North West that has helped the local authority and its tenants to choose the best strategy for long term improvement.

16 local authorities in the North West have transferred all their stock, and five local authorities have transferred part of their stock. This has unlocked £1,739 million in private finance, of which £553 million has gone to local authorities in capital receipts, with the remaining £1,186 million going directly into renovating and maintaining the transferred properties. Four local authorities have schemes on the programme that have not yet transferred, three of which have had positive ballot results. Ellesmere Port and Neston, Halton, Hyndburn, Macclesfield and West Lancashire have been granted places on the 2004 programme.

London Housing Board

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the expenditure of the London Housing Board has been since its foundation; and if he will list the projects which it has funded. [180330]

Keith Hill: The role of the London Housing Board is to prepare a Regional Housing Strategy and advise Ministers on strategic housing investment priorities in London. Following recommendations from the London Housing Board, London will receive £2.1 billion for housing in the region over the two years 2004–05 and 2005–06.

Table 1: London Regional Housing Pot

£ million

	2004–05	*2005–06*
Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme[1] (including for key workers)	736.6	757.6
	(177)	(194)
Local Authorities Allocation[2]	209.1	215.2
Discretionary Pot for Innovative Local Schemes Delivering New Supply (See Table 2)	39.8	28.6
Discretionary Pot for Private Sector Renewal (See Table 3)	10.9	11.1
Discretionary Pot for Local Authority Regeneration Schemes (See Table 4)	42.6	58.5

[1] Funding allocated, via the Housing Corporation, to housing associations to provide homes for rent or low cost home ownership through both new build and acquisition and refurbishment.
[2] Capital allocation to local authorities to support housing capital investment and which is not project specific.

Table 2: Innovative Local Schemes

£000

Local Authority	*Housing Association*	*Scheme*	*2004–05 and 2005–06*
Barking and Dagenham	East Thames Housing Group	Axe Street	1,250
Brent	Paddington Churches HA	Donnington Court	2,149
Croydon	Metropolitan HT	Croydon Garages group A	606
Enfield	Christian A Enfield	Salisbury School Keyworker	515
Hackney	Southern Housing Group	Millennium Plus at the Nightingale	4,456
Hammersmith and Fulham	Threshold Housing and Support	Westway Beacons	15,430
Haringey	Solon CHS	Ivatts Way	1,175
Islington	The Guinness Trust	Hornsey Road Baths	6,770
Kingston upon Thames	Town and Country Group	Cocks Crescent New Maiden	6,000
Lambeth	London & Quadrant HT	Penzance House	1,600
Merton	Presentation HA	Birnam House, 9 Langley Road	525
Merton	Wandle HA	Merton HRA Sites Phase 1	3,975
Newham	Tower Homes Limited	Greengate House	6,160
Newham	Toynbee HA	Newham CPO	1,860
Southwark	Presentation HA	41–75 Consort Road	5,781
Southwark	Hexagon	Dog Kennel Hill School	1,376
Tower Hamlets	Swan Housing Association	Crossways Phase 1	8,490
Westminster	Tower Homes Limited	Frampton Street	251

Table 3: Private sector renewal

£000

Sub Region	*Scheme*	*Allocation 2004–05 and 2005–06*
East	Decent Homes for Vulnerable People	2,000
East	Homes from Redundant Shops	2,500
North	Supply Scheme	3,500
South East	Healthy Homes	1,000
South East	Renewal Loan fund	2,000
South East	Coldblasters	1,000

Table 3: Private sector renewal

£000

Sub Region	*Scheme*	*Allocation 2004–05 and 2005–06*
South West	Universal Coldblasters	2,000
South West	Empty Homes	2,000
West	Empty Property Website	345
West	Heatstreets	3,655
Pan-London	Houseproud	830
Pan-London	Landlord Accreditation	1,170

Table 4: Local Authority Regeneration

£000

Local Authority	Scheme	Allocation 2004-05 and 2005-06
Barnet	Stonegrove and Spur Road	2,981
Brent	South Kilburn Regeneration	9,850
Bromley	Ramsden Regeneration	2,679
Camden	Gospel Oak	2,926
Camden	Ampthill Square Estate	5,876
Ealing	South Acton Estate	7,745
Greenwich	Solar Powered Hot Water	495
Greenwich	Ravens Way, Kidbrooke	1,979
Hillingdon	Romney Parade	183
Hounslow	Ivybridge Estate	5,914
Hounslow	Convent Way	2,483
Islington	Tollington Estate	7,911
Kensington and Chelsea	Redcliffe Square	495
Kensington and Chelsea	Finborough Road and Edith Grove	445
Lambeth	Ethelred Estate (low rise)	5,373
Lewisham	Honor Oak Estate	8,328
Merton	Safer Homes	81
Merton	Home Energy for life	178
Newham	Brooks Road and Plaistow Borth Estate	1,978
Southwark	Aylesbury Estate	11,398
Southwark	Four Squares Estate	2,318
Sutton	Durand Estate	2,473
Tower Hamlets	Tarling East Estate	1,029
Tower Hamlets	Crossways Estate	5,345
Waltham Forest	Bisterne Avenue and St. Andrews Court	1,933
Westminster	Warwick Towers	8,764

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Sayeed: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much money Ordnance Survey has received in the last four financial years in Government *(a)* grants and *(b)* mapping contracts; and whether Ordnance Survey had to compete for the contracts. [153756]

Yvette Cooper: Ordnance Survey does not receive any Government grants. As a Government Department and Trading Fund, Ordnance Survey earns its revenues from commercial licences, commercial services and product sales. This revenue includes transactions with Government through inter Crown agreements including services delivered through the National Interest Mapping Service Agreement and the Pan Government Agreement. Ordnance Survey income is reported in its Annual Reports.

Land Prices (Essex)

Mr. Hurst: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average price was of land per hectare with planning permission to build housing in each district council area in Essex in 2003. [180962]

Keith Hill: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Planning Appeals

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what account is taken of the financial viability of the applicant in planning appeals considered by his Department. [180969]

Keith Hill: All planning appeals are determined on their planning merits, and an applicant's financial viability is not normally a material planning consideration. However, the viability of an existing or proposed enterprise may be a relevant consideration in some cases.

Postal Ballots

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who will meet the costs of reprinting postal ballot papers for the elections on 10 June. [178663]

Mr. Raynsford: Returning officers have the contractual relationships with suppliers of ballot packs. To the extent that their suppliers are not liable for reprinting costs, regional and local returning officers will be able to claim re-imbursement from Government for services properly rendered, or expenses properly incurred, for or in connection with the European election. Insofar as the local elections in principal areas or parishes within the pilot regions are concerned, returning officers will be able to claim "local election pilot expenditure" from Government. That will include any expenditure which is apportioned to the local election, which exceeds the expenditure which would have been incurred if the region had not been one of the pilot regions.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will estimate the total cost of the all-postal ballots for the elections to be held on 10 June. [178279]

Mr. Raynsford: The Government's current estimate of the total cost of the ballots in the four all-postal pilot regions is £23.8 million.

Rural Exceptions Sites

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) when he expects to make an announcement on new PPG3, with particular reference to rural exceptions sites; [180393]

(2) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* National Association of Local Councils, *(b)* rural community councils and *(c)* individual parish and town councils on the impact of building on rural exceptions sites. [180394]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is finalising the proposed updates to PPG3 (Housing) titled 'Influencing the size, type and affordability of housing' and 'Supporting the delivery of new housing' in the light of the responses to the consultation exercise undertaken last year. Our aim is to publish the updates to PPG3 in the autumn, including the approach to planning for mixed communities in rural areas. Any further revisions to PPG3 to take account of the recommendations of the Barker review of housing supply will be completed in 2005.

Eight responses were received from rural community councils and parish councils to 'Influencing the size, type and affordability of housing'. Of the five responses received from rural community councils, four were

supportive of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals in the update for a 100 per cent. affordable housing allocation policy, but also asked that the existing rural exceptions policy should be retained. The other was opposed to the proposed allocation policy, preferring a retention of the existing policy.

Three responses were received from parish councils. One was supportive of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals, while another was opposed to it, preferring a retention of the existing policy. The third parish council did not register any comments on that particular aspect of the proposals. Formal representations were not received from the National Association of Local Council or any town councils. We will take into account all of the responses it received to the consultation exercise, including those from the rural community and parish councils, in finalising the PPG3 update.

Mobile Phone Masts

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons the planning guidelines on mobile phone masts laid down by the Government in PPG8—Telecommunications 2001 state that authorities should respond positively to proposals for telecommunications development, with particular reference to their application to locations usually subject to policies of restraint. [179865]

Yvette Cooper: The reasons for the guidelines are set out in PPG8 itself. PPG8 states that:

"The aim of telecommunications policy is to ensure that people have a choice as to who provides their telecommunications service, a wider range of services from which to choose and equitable access to the latest technologies as they become available.

The Government places great emphasis on its well-established national polices for the protection of the countryside and urban areas—in particular the National Parks (Including the Broads and New Forest), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the Green Belts, the Heritage Coast and areas and buildings of architectural or historic importance.

While local planning authorities are encouraged to respond positively to telecommunications development proposals they should take account of the advice on the protection of urban and rural areas in other planning policy guidance notes."

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons the planning guidelines on mobile phone masts laid down by the Government in PPG8—Telecommunications 2001 state that provided a proposal meets the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation guidelines for public exposure, it should not be necessary for a local planning authority to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them. [179866]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's advice is based on the expert opinion of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (IEGMP). In their report published in May 2000 they recommended that, as a precautionary approach, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure be adopted for use in the UK.

HEALTH

Suicide Attempts (Adolescents)

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of attempted suicides of adolescent *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each year since 1997. [179059]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not possible to estimate numbers of attempted suicides. However, the number of episodes in national health service hospitals with a primary diagnosis of injury and poisoning, and a cause of self inflicted injury in England by age group and gender are shown in the table.

Finished consultant episodes with primary diagnosis of injury or poisoning and a cause of self inflicted injury, by age group and sex, 1997–98 to 2002–03 NHS hospitals, England

	Under 16			*16–18*		
	Male	*Female*	*All persons*	*Male*	*Female*	*All persons*
2002–03	1,129	5,634	6,763	1,485	3,897	5,382
2001–02	1,219	5,148	6,368	1,692	4,182	5,874
2000–01	1,127	4,820	5,974	1,861	4,296	6,159
1999–2000	1,218	4,635	5,863	1,867	4,096	5,969
1998–99	1,111	4,206	5,318	2,155	4,212	6,371
1997–98	1,180	4,913	6,126	2,360	4,729	7,160

	19 or over			*All ages*		
	Male	*Female*	*All persons*	*Male*	*Female*	*All persons*
2002–03	26,675	31,400	58,086	29,355	40,967	70,336
2001–02	28,078	32,733	60,821	31,107	42,184	73,377
2000–01	30,106	33,250	63,367	33,172	42,414	75,630
1999–2000	31,249	33,586	64,895	34,392	42,361	76,833
1998–1999	32,816	33,168	66,020	36,153	41,612	77,811
1997–98	34,330	35,434	70,187	37,951	45,110	83,590

Notes:

Unknown age or sex

All persons and All ages totals may not agree with the sum of age or sex breakdown figures due to episodes where age and/or sex of patient is unknown.

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. IDCD-10 codes SOO-T98 have been used in his analysis.

Cause Code

The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Cause codes X60-X84 have been used for this analysis.

Grossing

Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Department of Health.

Alcohol-related Illness

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been treated for alcohol-related accidents or illnesses at Chorley Hospital in each of the last five years. [180059]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information requested is collected on a national health service trust basis. The table shows information for the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which was formed in 2002 and its predecessor bodies.

Count of finished admissions, 1998–99 to 2002–03: Diagnosis of "alcohol-related accidents"—Selected health authorities of treatment by provider of treatment NHS hospitals, England

	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust	100	0	84	97	—
Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	192	379	292	377	—
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—		—	552

Count of finished admissions, 1998–99 to 2002–03: Diagnosis of "alcohol-related illnesses"—Selected health authorities of treatment by provider of treatment NHS hospitals, England

	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust	165	—	128	160	—
Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	198	411	231	224	—
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	383

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
*ICD-10 codes = "alcohol related accidents" as advised by NHSIA Clinical Coding Service
Primary Diagnosis
SOO-T74 Injuries (excludes certain cause of injury)
Secondary Diagnosis
F10.—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
R78.0 Finding of alcohol in blood
Y90.—Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by alcohol level
Y91.—Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by level of intoxication.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
1999–2000 figures
A combined return for the two trusts was made in 1999–2000.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Department of Health

Chlamydia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Answer of 5 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1612W, on chlamydia, if he will publish the advice of the National Screening Committee giving the reasons for the phased introduction of nationwide chlamydia screening. [179680]

Miss Melanie Johnson: This advice is not contained in the United Kingdom national screening committee's (NSC) published reports to date. The NSC endorsed the findings of the evaluation of the chlamydia screening pilot, which is published on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk. One of the recommendations was that the immediate introduction of a complete national programme was not viable, but a phased introduction was recommended instead. Dr. Muir Gray, programme director of the NSC, discussed the phased approach to the introduction of screening programmes in his witness statement to the Health Select Committee on 9 January 2003,—"Health Committee, Third Report of Session 2002–03, volume ii: oral and written evidence"—which is available in the Library.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service work force in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180175]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Lyons report gives details of the Department's relocations plans, which are being taken forward and refined as part of the spending review. The Government will announce proposals for implementing and monitoring the dispersal plans in the review. The Department will then decide on its dispersal strategy in light of its business needs and priorities.

Cluster Headaches

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received about the impact of the recommendations of the Royal College of Physicians on domiciliary oxygen services on cluster headache sufferers; and if he will make a statement. [179598]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 June 2004]:* Representations have been received from the organisations Headache UK and Ouch (Organisation for the Understanding of Cluster Headaches) about the changes to the domiciliary oxygen service which will be introduced next year. Patients suffering from cluster headaches will continue to be able to receive the oxygen service which they need.

Dentistry

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists per 10,000 head of population there have been in each of the past 25 years; and what the projection is for the next five years. [180032]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of national health service dentists (headcount) per 10,000 population in England is shown in the table for September in each of the years 1979 to 2003.

NHS dentists cover dentists working in the general dental service (GDS), hospital dental service, community dental service and personal dental service (PDS).

Dentist working in more than one dental service are included in each service apart from dentists working in both PDS and GDS who are counted in the GDS only.

Number of NHS dentists per 10,000 population at 30 September each year

England	*Number*
1979	3.43
1980	3.48
1981	3.57
1982	3.66
1983	3.74
1984	3.82
1985	3.87
1986	3.89
1987	3.89
1988	3.93
1989	3.98
1990	3.98
1991	3.95
1992	3.94
1993	4.00
1994	3.99
1995	4.01
1996	4.09
1997	4.17
1998	4.27
1999	4.37
2000	4.43
2001	4.53
2002	4.58
2003	4.66

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce free dental care for pensioners; and if he will make a statement. [180293]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2004]:* There are no plans to introduce free dental care for pensioners. It is the Department's policy to offer help with health costs based upon a person's income.

Departmental Policy (Stroud)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the Stroud constituency, the effects of changes to departmental policy since 1997 on the Stroud constituency. [174836]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government has put in place a programme of National Health Service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Stroud constituency.

For example:

At the end of March 2004, the number of people waiting more than nine months for inpatient treatment within Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust (PCT) has fallen to zero, from 113 in June 2002.

At the end of March 2004, the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for outpatient treatment within Cotswold and Vale PCT has fallen to 83, from 396 in June 2002.

In 2002, at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust, 87.1 per cent., of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. Figures for December 2003 show an improvement to 94.2 per cent.

Between September 2002 and September 2003, the number of consultants at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust has increased from 205 to 226. The number of nurses increased from 1,928 to 2,152.

In September 2002, figures show 157 general practitioners within Cotswold and Vale PCT. Figures for December 2003 show an increase to 163.

Figures for December 2003 show that all patients within Cotswold and Vale PCT are able to be offered an appointment with a primary care professional within two working days.

In the Stroud local authority area, death rates from cancer per 100,000 population have fallen to 163.5 in 2002, from 168.1 in 1997.

In the Stroud local authority area, death rates from coronary heart disease per 100,000 population have fallen to 129 in 2002, from 132 in 1997.

Cotswold & Vale PCT's allocation has risen to £173.6 million for 2004-05; a cash increase of 8.9 per cent..

£30 million investment in a private finance initiative redevelopment at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital to provide modern, state of the art health care facilities, anticipated to open in Autumn 2004.

£8.5 million invested in four new operating theatres and oral and maxillofacial laboratory and a medical engineering department at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with diabetes require animal insulin; and if he will make a statement; [180049]

(2) what research his Department has evaluated on the suitability of synthetic insulin for all diabetics in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement; [180050]

(3) how many patients he estimates are more suited to animal insulin and have experienced problems with synthetic insulin; and if he will make a statement. [180051]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All authorised insulins, whether human (synthetic) insulin or animal insulin, have been demonstrated to be efficacious in people with diabetes mellitus. As part of the licensing approval process for any medicinal product, including insulins, the applicant has to provide evidence that the product meets appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy. This will include clinical trial data in patients with diabetes. The decision to use one or other of the insulins rests with the physician in consultation with the patient.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines and its sub-committee on pharmacovigilance (SCOP) has kept the safety of synthetic (human) insulins under close review and has considered the available data on a number of occasions. Most recently in 2002, the SCOP considered the findings of an independent review of controlled clinical trial data by the Cochrane collaboration. The conclusions of the Cochrane review were that there is no difference in the incidence of adverse events between patients on synthetic insulin compared with patients on animal insulins. The SCOP confirmed its previous advice that there is no clear evidence of safety problem specific to human insulin. However, the issue will be reviewed again should further information become available.

Data on the number of people using these insulins is not collected. However, the table shows the number of prescription items that were dispensed in the community in England, in 2003.

Number of prescription items that were dispensed in the community in England 2003

	Number (thousand)
Highly purified animal insulin	181.0
Human sequence (GM Insulin)	3,654.3
All Insulins	3,835.3

Notes:
1. The data is from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, which covers all prescription items that are dispensed in the community in England. This does not include drugs dispensed in hospitals or private prescriptions.
2. Insulins are those defined in the British National Formulary (BNF) paragraph 6.1.1, "Insulins". Insulin drugs have been grouped into highly purified animal and human sequence (GM) insulin in line with the BNF.
3. Doctors write prescriptions on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

Embryology

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which members of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority are directly involved in embryonic stemcell research; and if he will make a statement. [175894]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The members of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority who are connected to centres carrying out embryonic stem cell research are:

Professor David Barlow.
Professor Christopher Barratt.
Professor Peter Braude.
Professor Iain Cameron.

Food Labelling

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with farmers about food labelling requirements. [180214]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* Food labelling rules are agreed at European Union level. The Food Standards Agency consults widely with interested parties, including groups such as the National Farmers Union, both during negotiations and implementation of legislative measures, as well as in drawing up guidance for industry.

Food Supplements

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has received on the number of dossiers being prepared by industry for submission to the European Food Safety Authority in relation to nutrients and nutrient sources currently permitted for use in the United Kingdom but omitted from the lists of permitted nutrients and nutrient sources appended to the Food Supplements Directive and the Food Supplements (England) Regulations; what estimate he has made of the cost of producing such dossiers; and if he will make financial assistance available to small and medium-sized enterprises to help with the production of such dossiers. [176983]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Article 4 (6) of Directive 2002/46/EC on food supplements requires that in the case of vitamin and mineral sources in food supplements on the market in the community on 12 July 2002 but absent from Annex II of the Directive, dossiers supporting continued use after 1 August 2005 must be submitted to the European Commission no later than 12 July 2005.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has not received any such dossiers from the United Kingdom food supplement industry. The FSA understands, however, that the industry is in the process of compiling a small number of dossiers.

The costs of compiling and submitting safety dossiers in support of ingredients not on the positive lists are difficult to estimate. Discussions between representatives of the European Food Safety Authority and industry representatives last October indicated that, in many cases, dossier costs are likely to be significantly lower than previously estimated by industry.

The Government will not provide financial assistance for the production or submission of dossiers. Officials at the FSA have offered to comment on dossiers before submission to the Commission provided such requests are co-ordinated and are made in good time.

Health Care Forums

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Healthcare on the decision to cap forum membership at an average of 10 members per forum. [179679]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As an independent organisation, it was necessary for the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) to formally consult the Department on its decision to limit the number of members of patients' forums. Through regular meetings with the CPPIH, we have been made aware of its decision and future plans.

Health Expenditure (Kent and Medway)

Mr. Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the expenditure per weighted head of population was in the Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority area in each year since 1997; [180269]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average public expenditure on health per head of population in Kent and Medway, other than through the Strategic Health Authority, in each year since 1997. [180270]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information relating to the expenditure per weighted head of population for the Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority area is shown in the table.

Expenditure per weighted head of population for the Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority area

	£ per head
1997–98	590.54
1998–99	640.42
1999–2000	766.79
2000–01	795.96
2001–02	852.31
2002–03	914.67

Notes:

1. Expenditure is taken from audited health authority accounts and primary care trust summarisation schedules which are prepared on a resource basis and therefore differ from cash allocations in the year. The expenditure is the total expenditure by the relevant health authorities for 1997–98 to 2002–03, and the commissioner costs of the primary care trusts for 2000–01 to 2002–03. Figures are given per weighted head of population.
2. Allocations per weighted head of population provide a much more reliable measure to identify differences between funding of health authorities.
3. The total national health service expenditure cannot be identified by health authority area because the majority of general dental services expenditure is not included in the individual health authority accounts or primary care trust summarisation schedules and is separately accounted for by the Dental Practice Board. An element of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority and not by health authorities or primary care trusts.
4. In many health authorities there are factors which distort the expenditure per head. These include:
the health authority acting in a lead capacity to commission healthcare or fund training on behalf of other health bodies; and asset revaluations in NHS trusts being funded through health authorities or primary care trusts.
For these reasons expenditure per head cannot be compared reliably between health authorities or between different years.

Sources:

Health authority audited accounts 1997–98.
Health authority audited summarisation forms 1998–99 to 2001–02.
Strategic health authority audited summarisation forms 2002–03.
Primary Care Trust audited summarisation schedules 2000–01 to 2002–03.
Weighted health authority population figures 1997–98 to 2002–03.

Health Services (Rochdale)

Mrs. Fitzsimons: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been to NHS waiting list times in the last seven years for the residents of Rochdale. [178514]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not available in the form requested. The table shows the number of patients waiting for admission to the Pennine Acute Hospitals national health service Trust, including its predecessor organisations, each year since 1997.

Patients waiting for elective inpatient admission

		Patients waiting for admission by months waiting						
NHS Trust	*Total number of patients waiting for admission*	*Less than three months*	*Three to five months*	*Six to eight months*	*Nine to 11 months*	*12 to 14 months*	*15 to 17 months*	*18 plus months*
March 1997								
Oldham NHS Trust	8,436	3,837	2,293	1,339	967	—	—	—
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	4,464	2,472	868	577	374	173	—	—
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	5,787	2,961	1,506	708	427	157	22	6
Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	2,223	1,471	399	196	120	37	—	—
Bury and Rochdale Health Authority	9,894	5,470	2,203	1,252	793	176	—	—
March 1998								
Oldham NHS Trust	8,332	3,954	1,976	1,650	736	16	—	—
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	4,684	2,702	924	581	305	132	40	—
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	6,002	2,911	1,253	827	528	308	175	—
Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	2,437	1,581	375	251	128	91	11	—
March 1999								
Oldham NHS Trust	7,338	4,156	1,904	895	315	67	1	—
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	4,168	2,351	873	484	257	167	36	—
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	4,699	3,342	737	369	148	76	27	—
Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	2,153	1,210	367	240	127	158	51	—
Bury and Rochdale Health Authority	9,657	5,462	1,976	1,123	585	413	98	—
March 2000								
Oldham NHS Trust	6,484	4,012	1,364	682	371	50	5	—
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	4,032	2,102	841	568	330	130	61	—
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	4,262	3,131	653	230	150	78	20	—
Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	2,103	1,218	341	219	164	105	56	—
Bury and Rochdale Health Authority	9,237	5,066	1,866	1,107	698	341	159	—
March 2001								
Oldham NHS Trust	6,427	4,092	1,478	601	213	43	—	—
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	4,039	2,456	876	397	249	45	16	—
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	4,016	2,884	680	303	119	27	3	—
Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	1,916	1,250	367	181	118	—	—	—
Bury and Rochdale Health Authority	8,906	5,348	1,831	949	558	169	51	—

Patients waiting for elective inpatient admission

NHS Trust	Total number of patients waiting for admission	Patients waiting for admission by months waiting: Less than three months	Three to five months	Six to eight months	Nine to 11 months	12 to 14 months	15 to 17 months	18 plus months
March 2002								
Oldham NHS Trust	6,297	3,830	1,631	611	225	—	—	—
Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	4,530	2,675	1,029	527	254	45	—	—
North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	4,008	2,804	795	265	114	30	—	—
Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	2,045	1,411	336	218	78	2	—	—
Bury and Rochdale Health Authority	9,592	5,745	2,095	1,079	550	123	—	—
March 2003								
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	15,872	10,226	3,607	1,575	464	—	—	—
Rochdale PCT	3,626	2,194	886	404	142	—	—	—
March 2004								
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	15,470	10,249	3,819	1,402	—	—	—	—
Rochdale PCT	3,446	2,372	804	270	—	—	—	—

Source:
Department of Health form KH07 and monthly monitoring.

Mental Health

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been detained in hospital and given compulsory treatment under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each year that it has been in force. [179667]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983. A patient can be detained more than once during a year: The Department does not collect data in relation to the number of detained patients who were given compulsory treatment.

Number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983, on admission and subsequent to admission, of patients in national health service facilities (including high security psychiatric hospitals), in England, 1984 to 2003

	Total detentions (on admission and subsequent to admission) in NHS facilities
1984	13,977
1985	14,909
1986	14,725
1987–88	24,811
1988–89	27,151
1989–90	27,497
1990–91	30,037
1991–92	32,794
1992–93	34,311
1993–94	37,092
1994–95	40,234
1995–96	41,628
1996–97	40,516
1997–98	43,291
1998–99	46,003
1999–2000	45,546
2000–01	45,654
2001–02	45,563
2002–03	45,064

Notes:
1. Figures exclude previous legislation (fifth schedule) and other Acts.
2. Data for 1984 to 1986 were collected by calendar year.
3. A patient may be detained more than once.
4. Data for patients detained subsequent to admission were not collected in respect of high security psychiatric hospitals prior to 1996–97 and in respect of other NHS facilities prior to 1987–88.

Source:
Department of Health statistics division.

Myeloma

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research the Government has undertaken on the causes of myeloma. [178827]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The main Government agency for research into the causes of and treatments for disease is the Medical Research Council (MRC). MRC expenditure on research on myeloma is shown in the table.

	Funding (£)
1998–99	410,000
1999–2000	390,000
2000–01	360,000
2001–02	420,000
2002–03	[1]—

[1] Not available

The MRC is not currently funding research into the causes of myeloma. It has, however, supported two major myeloma studies: Myeloma VII and Myeloma VIII (the figures in the table do not include spend on these) and has awarded £1 million to the Myeloma IX trial involving 1,600 patients. This trial will evaluate a number of different therapies and modalities of treatment used and being developed for myeloma, to provide information on their impact on response rates, survival and quality of life.

The MRC funds a considerable amount of basic underpinning research that is excluded from site-specific figures. In addition, research classified as undertaken in one site may well have implications for another.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people in the UK diagnosed with myeloma entered clinical trials in each of the last 10 years. [178829]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Information in the form requested is available in respect of publicly funded trials from the date of the establishment of the national cancer research network (NCRN) in 2001 and is shown in the table.

	Percentage of myeloma patients entered into NCRN clinical trials
2001–02	1.2
2002–03[1]	Nil
2003–04[2]	10.3

[1] Figures for this year and for 2001–02 are for England only.
[2] UK.

The figures reflect the pattern of recruitment of patients to a series of Medical Research Council funded myeloma studies. One, the myeloma VIII trial, had accrued the required number of patients by March 2002. Its successor, myeloma IX, opened in May 2003.

NHS (Language Services)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what security arrangements have been made in relation to NHS language provision; and whether all NHS Direct translators and interpreters will be subject in future to a police check by the Criminal Records Bureau. [179669]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Direct contract provides only for telephone, not face-to-face, interpretation and interpreters will be working in an anonymous environment. In keeping with child protection guidance, interpreters will be subject to checks by the Criminal Records Bureau. Any national health service trusts using face-to-face interpreting services outside of this contract will need to use their own discretion on this matter.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to support the role that language services play in facilitating access to NHS services. [179671]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department is committed to supporting the provision of language services as part of the overall drive to promote equity of access to national health service services.

The commitment to provide a national translation and interpreting service through NHS Direct was outlined in the NHS Plan. In addition to this, the Department has undertaken a series of initiatives to further improvements in language support for patients for whom English is not a first language.

In March this year, NHS Direct acquired a new national contract for an interpreting and translation service which provides access for all NHS organisations to a high quality telephone-based interpretation and translation services including the provision of British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation. NHS services are accessible 24 hours a day. Primary care trusts are able to commission interpreting and translation services from NHS Direct as and when required.

This new service includes monitoring of languages requested. The scope of the service covers all languages as required. The new NHS Direct commissioning framework will ensure the provision of assured quality standards for both interpreting and translation, as well as a shared and centralised knowledge management system for translated materials. NHS Direct will provide value for money in terms of quality, responsiveness and cost of the service.

NHS Dentistry

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average was paid per dentist for NHS dental services in each year since 1992. [180191]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average annual gross payment to dentists in the general dental service (GDS) in England is shown in the table.

	Gross income (£)
1992–93	83,400
1993–94	76,300
1 994–95	79,300
1995–96	79,600
1996–97	79,700
1997–98	79,300
1998–99	82,100
1999–2000	82,100
2000–01	84,500
2001–02	86,300
2002–03	88,100
2003–04	90,900

Source:
Dental Practice Board

Salaried dentists are paid on pay scales as set by the doctors' and dentists' review body. Figures for average payments are not available.

NHS Funding (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding has been allocated to the NHS in Warrington in each year since 1997. [180083]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is shown in the tables.

Expenditure on capital additions— purchased

£000

Warrington Hospital National Health Service Trust	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*
Land	171	0	0	0
Buildings, installations and fittings	773	1,060	1,621	756
Assets under construction	0	0	0	0
Equipment	687	748	1,668	1,860
Total	1,631	1,808	3,289	2,616

£000

North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*2001–02*
Land	0
Buildings, installations and fittings	1,750
Assets under construction	0
Equipment	2,327
Total	4,077

£000

North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	*2002–03*
Land	0
Buildings excluding dwellings	2,380
Dwellings	7
Assets under construction and payments on account	1,545
Plant and machinery	2,165
Transport equipment	0
Information technology	83
Furniture and fittings	22
Total	6,202

Sources:
Audited summarisation schedules of the Warrington Hospital NHS Trust 1997–98 to 2000–01.
Audited summarisation schedules of the North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust 2001–02 and 2002–03.

The Department made revenue allocations to health authorities (HAs) from 1997–98 to 2002–03 and to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2003–04. These are shown in table 1.

1. Revenue allocations to North Cheshire HA and Warrington PCT—1997–98 to 2005–06

£000

	North Cheshire HA	Warrington PCT
1997–98	145,260	n/a
1998–99	151,836	n/a
1999–2000	201,585	n/a
2000–01	217,660	n/a
2001–02	236,528	n/a
2002–03	261,550	n/a
2003–04	n/a	163,513
2004–05	n/a	178,963
2005–06	n/a	195,266

Note:
N/a = not applicable.

The NHS regional offices determined the distribution of NHS capital from 1997–98 to 2002–03. This is shown in table 2.

2. North West region capital planning totals 1997–98 to 2002–03

£000

	Total
1997–98	150,119
1998–99	136,937
1999–2000	156,369
2000–01	164,778
2001–02	171,373
2002–03	202,521

From 2003–04, the distribution of strategic capital and the access fund is determined by strategic health authorities (SHAs), whilst operational capital is allocated direct to NHS trusts and primary care trusts. This is shown in tables 3 and 4.

3. Cheshire and Merseyside SHA strategic capital and access fund 2003–04 to 2005–06

£000

	Strategic	Access
2003–04	37,805	5,603
2004–05	41,940	5,603
2005–06	50,589	5,603

4. Operational capital 2003–04 to 2005–06

£000

	Warrington PCT	North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust
2003–04	118	2,403
2004–05	135	2,743
2005–06	153	3,104

NHS Statistics (London)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time midwives are employed in the NHS in Greater London, broken down by national health service trust; and how many were employed *(a)* five years ago and *(b)* 10 years ago. [179396]

Mr. Hutton: Information on the number of full-time midwives employed by London national health service trusts and primary care trusts currently, five years ago and in 1997 is shown in the table. Information from 1997 is the earliest available.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the London Government Office Region by organisation and by nature of contract as at 30 September each specified year

		1997					
		Total midwives	Full-time	Part-time	Bank/ unknown	Percentage full-time	Percentage part-time
London		3,460	2,228	872	360	71.9	28.1
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
5NA	Redbridge PCT	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
Q06	North East London SHA	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RAL	The Royal Free Hampstead Hospital NHS Trust	26	24	2	0	92.3	7.7
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	107	78	14	15	84.8	15.2
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	167	109	40	18	73.2	26.8
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	48	42	6	0	87.5	12.5
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	156	79	68	9	53.7	46.3
RAZ	The St. Helier NHS Trust	156	84	50	22	62.7	37.3
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	101	56	22	23	71.8	28.2
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	135	73	22	40	76.8	23.2
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	110	67	42	1	61.5	38.5
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	104	53	31	20	63.1	36.9
RFZ	Northwick Park St. Marks NHS Trust	98	67	31	0	68.4	31.6
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	88	62	26	0	70.5	29.5
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	94	65	29	0	69.1	30.9
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	103	76	27	0	73.8	26.2
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	141	81	45	15	64.3	35.7
R69	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	135	69	30	36	69.7	30.3
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	159	54	76	29	41.5	58.5
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	2	2	0	0	100.0	0.0
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	176	131	18	27	87.9	12.1
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	53	38	15	0	71.7	28.3

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the London Government Office Region by organisation and by nature of contract as at 30 September each specified year

		1997					
		Total midwives	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Bank/ unknown*	*Percentage full-time*	*Percentage part-time*
RJ5	St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust	81	53	28	0	65.4	34.6
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	157	97	60	0	61.8	38.2
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	116	92	24	0	79.3	20.7
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	151	93	21	37	81.6	18.4
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	112	75	15	22	83.3	16.7
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	115	101	14	0	87.8	12.2
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RQL	Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust	90	52	38	0	57.8	42.2
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	129	103	14	12	88.0	12.0
RQN	The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	46	42	4	0	91.3	8.7
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	156	109	30	17	78.4	21.6
RRG	Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust	127	80	30	17	72.7	27.3
RRH	Newham Community NHS Trust	1	1	0	0	100.0	0.0
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	20	20	0	0	100.0	0.0
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the London Government Office Region by organisation and by nature of contract as at 30 September each specified year

		1998					
		Total midwives	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Bank/ unknown*	*Percentage full-time*	*Percentage part-time*
London		3,515	2,146	857	512	61.1	24.4
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
SNA	Redbridge PCT	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Q06	North East London SHA	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RAL	The Royal Free Hampstead Hospital NHS Trust	25	22	3	0	88.0	12.0
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	111	76	20	15	68.5	18.0
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	132	67	41	24	50.8	31.1
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	57	46	3	8	80.7	5.3
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	176	72	70	34	40.9	39.8
RAZ	The St. Helier NHS Trust	164	85	54	25	51.8	32.9
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	80	55	25	0	68.8	31.3
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	140	68	21	51	48.6	15.0
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	116	79	37	0	68.1	31.9
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	101	53	32	16	52.5	31.7
RFZ	Northwick Park St. Marks NHS Trust	106	66	31	9	62.3	29.2
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	109	79	30	0	72.5	27.5
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	97	64	33	0	66.0	34.0
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	111	82	29	0	73.9	26.1
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	140	86	44	10	61.4	31.4
R69	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	120	66	33	21	55.0	27.5
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	162	53	80	29	32.7	49.4
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	235	136	24	75	57.9	10.2
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	99	79	14	6	79.8	14.1
RJ5	St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust	84	58	26	0	69.0	31.0
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	44	29	15	0	85.9	34.1
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	119	94	25	0	79.0	21.0
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	115	73	20	22	63.5	17.4
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	103	61	17	25	59.2	16.5
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	141	103	14	24	73.0	9.9
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RQL	Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust	109	50	35	24	45.9	32.1
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	149	108	20	21	72.5	13.4
RQN	The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	71	29	7	35	40.8	9.9
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	130	107	23	0	82.3	17.7
RRG	Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust	139	74	30	35	53.2	21.6
RRH	Newham Community NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	30	25	1	3	86.7	3.3
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the London Government Office Region by organisation and by nature of contract as at 30 September each specified year

		1999					
		Total midwives	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Bank/ unknown*	*Percentage full-time*	*Percentage part-time*
London		3,703	2,065	932	708	68.9	31.1
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
SNA	Redbridge PCT	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
Q06	North East London SHA	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RAL	The Royal Free Hampstead Hospital NHS Trust	50	37	6	7	86.0	14.0
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	97	71	15	11	82.6	17.4
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	105	60	43	2	58.3	41.7
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	177	69	75	33	47.9	52.1
RAZ	The St. Helier NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	92	51	24	17	68.0	32.0
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	117	77	40	0	65.8	34.2
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	88	49	34	5	59.0	41.0
RFZ	Northwick Park St. Marks NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	19	10	5	4	66.7	33.3
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	89	55	34	0	61.8	38.2
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	99	56	34	0	65.7	34.3
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	132	87	42	3	67.4	32.6
R69	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	161	52	80	29	39.4	60.6
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	189	141	21	27	87.0	13.0
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	102	80	12	10	87.0	13.0
RJ5	St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust	87	58	29	0	66.7	33.3
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	200	65	40	95	61.9	38.1
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	120	95	25	0	79.2	20.8
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	132	83	27	22	75.5	24.5
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	137	68	19	50	78.2	21.8
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	157	92	17	48	84.4	15.6
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RQL	Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust	122	46	28	48	62.2	37.8
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	152	98	32	22	75.4	24.6
RQN	The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	150	32	3	115	91.4	8.6
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	121	95	26	0	78.5	21.5
RRG	Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust	137	77	24	36	76.2	23.8
RRH	Newham Community NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	35	30	5	0	85.7	14.3
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	158	9935	24	73.9	26.1	
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	222	125	63	34	66.5	33.5
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	256	98	94	64	51.0	49.0

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the London Government Office Region by organisation and by nature of contract as at 30 September each specified year

		2003					
		Total midwives	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Bank/ unknown*	*Percentage full-time*	*Percentage part-time*
London		3,981	2,020	1,161	800	63.5	36.5
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	1	0	1	0	0.0	100.0
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1	0	1	0	0.0	100.0
SNA	Redbridge PCT	1	1	0	0	100.0	0.0
Q06	North East London SHA	2	2	0	0	100.0	0.0
RAL	The Royal Free Hampstead Hospital NHS Trust	105	64	18	23	78.0	22.0
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	117	72	18	27	80.0	20.0
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	175	49	45	81	52.1	47.9
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	162	57	55	50	50.9	49.1
RAZ	The St. Helier NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	89	43	26	0	62.3	37.7
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	283	147	79	57	65.0	35.0
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	81	37	44	0	45.7	54.3
RFZ	Northwick Park St. Marks NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	178	68	33	77	67.3	32.7
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	90	54	36	0	60.0	40.0
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in the London Government Office Region by organisation and by nature of contract as at 30 September each specified year

		2003					
		Total midwives	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Bank/ unknown*	*Percentage full-time*	*Percentage part-time*
R69	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	156	73	57	26	56.2	43.8
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	161	34	97	30	26.0	74.0
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	234	162	46	26	77.9	22.1
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	127	59	27	41	68.6	31.4
RJ5	St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust	87	64	23	0	73.6	26.4
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	99	61	38	0	61.6	38.4
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	150	93	20	37	82.3	17.7
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	198	102	53	43	65.8	34.2
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	84	59	25	0	70.2	29.8
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	119	71	20	28	78.0	22.0
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	150	93	27	30	77.5	22.5
RQL	Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	151	62	59	30	51.2	48.8
RQN	The Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	141	97	44	0	68.8	31.2
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	159	88	30	41	74.6	25.4
RRG	Tower Hamlets Healthcare NHS Trust	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
RRH	Newham Community NHS Trust	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	85	60	25	0	70.6	29.4
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	137	76	39	22	66.1	33.9
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	247	89	79	79	53.0	47.0
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	231	83	96	52	46.4	53.6

[1] Not applicable.

Note:

Percentages are based on numbers of staff whose nature of contract is known.

Source:

Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

Osteoporosis

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the status is of *(a)* raloxifene and *(b)* teriparatide in the National Institute for Clinical Excellence's review of pharmacological treatments for osteoporosis. [179875]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Raloxifiene and teriparatide are included in the National Institute for Clinical Excellence's (NICE) appraisal of the clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness of technologies for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women.

The recommendations in the draft guidance are preliminary and may change after consultation. Guidance is due to be published in October 2004 and full details of the appraisal can be found on the NICE website www.nice.org.uk.

Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last met the Chair of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health. [179927]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend, the Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn), the then Secretary of State for Health, met Sharon Grant in October 2002. Since then, there have been regular meetings between Sharon Grant and the Ministers responsible for patient and public involvement, but no meetings with the Secretary of State. The most recent meeting with a Minister of the Department was on 17 June 2004. I also met Sharon Grant at the opening of a patients' forum support centre in Leicester on 15 June.

Renal Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the second part of the National Service Framework on renal services will be published; and if he will make a statement; [180282]

(2) how the development of the second part of the National Service Framework on renal services will be co-ordinated with the development within his Department of policy on chronic disease management. [180283]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Part two of the national service framework (NSF) for renal services is being developed and will be published in due course.

The work programme for improving chronic disease management is complementary to NSFs and focuses on developing support to help maintain the health of people with a complex mix of health and social care problems, and supporting self-care so that people are better able to look after themselves. This approach recognises the complex interaction of multiple conditions and aims to manage the holistic needs of individuals. For example, good glycaemic control in people with diabetes and the treatment of high blood pressure can reduce the risk, or progression, of chronic kidney disease.

Sexual Health

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions for teenagers for sexually transmitted diseases there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each year since 1996. [179160]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The data requested is shown in the table.

Count of finished admission episodes by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment and for England
Age on admission—13 to 19 years
National health service hospitals England 1996–97 to 2002–03

SHA of treatment		1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	14	6	14	10	15	13	10
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	3	1	5	2	14	5	4
Q03	Essex HA	6	8	9	9	8	4	8
Q04	North West London HA	26	13	5	11	8	8	9
Q05	North Central London HA	6	12	41	25	18	23	10
Q06	North East London HA	3	1	2	11	7	2	6
Q07	South East London HA	8	10	10	5	3	6	12
Q08	South West London HA	5	—	8	5	5	6	6
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	5	3	39	23	22	12	7
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	—	—	—	12	9	5	13
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	20	8	8	20	15	16	11
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	17	12	7	33	18	14	13
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	6	4	3	—	2	5	16
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	13	16	19	13	17	23	27
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	12	9	11	7	15	12	16
Q16	Thames Valley HA	6	3	5	5	10	6	10
Q17	Hampshire and Isle Of Wight HA	3	5	4	8	7	7	5
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	2	2	1	10	4	5	2
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	4	3	5	9	7	5	7
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	2	—	1	8	12	4	11
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	27	23	18	17	3	3	3
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	8	1	6	8	4	3	8
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	2	1	1	6	7	19	11
Q24	Trent HA	22	25	21	19	31	20	17
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	5	5	2	12	3	5	4
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	8	1	2	2	3	2	3
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	6	9	5	11	10	10	13
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	2	6	3	9	9	7	10
	Not known	231	182	132	74	45	18	—
	England	474	370	389	387	335	268	272

Stroke Pathways

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to encourage *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts to work together to establish stroke pathways. [180035]

Dr. Ladyman: Our major vehicle for improving standards for stroke services is through the older people's national service framework (NSF), which set specific milestones for improvement by April 2004 of stroke services in primary care trusts, specialist services and general hospitals that care for people suffering from a stroke. Our document, "Improvement, Expansion and Reform", which sets for the national health service a priorities and planning framework for 2003–06, makes clear that implementation of the older people's NSF is a top priority.

Implementation of the NSF for older people is leading to real improvements in stroke services and making a difference to people's lives. The development of better services and improved standards in stroke care requires the right balance between national standards, provided by the NSF, national clinical guidelines and local control.

Treatment Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of treating *(a)* those injured in road traffic accidents and *(b)* head injuries received in cycling accidents is in the last year for which figures are available. [179958]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service does not identify separately the costs of treating road traffic accident victims or those injured in cycling accidents. Where a road traffic accident patient receives compensation for their injuries, the national health service is able to reclaim the costs of their treatment from whoever pays the compensation. In 2003–04, over £105 million was recovered in this way.

Visually Impaired People

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that visually impaired people receive a high standard of service from the NHS, with particular reference to *(a)* the format of letters and information in preferred format and *(b)* staff training. [180192]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* People with visual impairments have the same right of access to high quality health services as everyone else. The NHS Plan emphasised the Government's commitment to a person-centred health service that challenges discrimination on all grounds.

In conjunction with the Disability Rights Commission, the Department has launched a joint framework for partnership action on disability to help deliver improvements for disabled people as users and providers of health and social care. Access and communication have been identified as priority areas and the Department is taking a number of steps to address these. These include publication of the leaflet, "You Can Make a Difference—Improving Hospital Services for Disabled People" and developing guidance and support for primary care trusts on improving services for disabled people.

The Department is also developing a patient information framework to provide the strategic framework for future development and provision in this area. Together with the informed patient project, which will improve the overall quality, range and accessibility

of patient information, the framework will support the need for individuals to have access to information at different times and in different formats depending on their circumstances.

NHSU, the organisation set up by the Department to establish a university for the national health service, is also working closely with the Disability Rights Commission and others to develop a framework and programme of work to address training on disabilities issues in health and social care. As a first step, a prototype learning programme, aimed at providing staff with a broad overview of disability awareness, will be ready for consultation in the autumn.

There are no plans for centrally funded programmes that deal specifically with awareness of visual impairments.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

EU Constitution

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals were put forward by the United Kingdom during the negotiations on the European Constitution in respect of the reform of Euratom. [180584]

Mr. MacShane: The UK did not put forward any proposals with respect to the reform of Euratom during the IGC on the Constitutional Treaty.

Chagos Islands

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the British Government's agreement in principle to cede the Chagos Islands to Mauritius when they are no longer needed for defence purposes; and if he will make a statement. [180517]

Mr. Rammell: The assurance that the Chagos islands will be ceded to Mauritius when they are no longer needed for defence purposes was first given to the Mauritius Government in September 1965, at the same time as the Mauritius Government agreed to the detachment of the islands from Mauritius for the purpose of their incorporation into the British Indian ocean territory. The assurance has since been repeated on numerous occasions, both direct to the Mauritius Government, and in the United Nations and other fora, most recently by the United Kingdom representative in the General Assembly of the United Nations on 24 September 2003. I am placing a copy of the statement in the Library of the House.

Colombia

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 18 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 872W, on Colombia, how his Department assessed the causal link between the Government of Colombia's policies and the decline in internally displaced people in Colombia in 2003 apparent in the Government of Colombia's statistics; and if he will make a statement. [175502]

Mr. Rammell: The decline in numbers of new displacements in 2003, rather than in numbers of internally displaced people as a whole (the latter continues to rise year upon year), can be contributed in part to the success of the Government of Colombia's democratic security policy. This policy has resulted in an expansion of the state security presence throughout the country. The armed forces have had marked success in their offensives against illegal armed groups since the change of Government in 2002, which saw a stronger commitment to tackle such groups head on. Research by independent human rights observers in Colombia indicates that the illegal armed groups caused the vast majority of displacements in 2003. The problem, however, persists; more needs to be done until overall numbers of internally displaced people can actually start to drop.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 872W, on Colombia, what his Department *(a)* plans to do and *(b)* is doing to address the problems of internally displaced people in Colombia. [175523]

Mr. Rammell: The UK's response to international humanitarian crises is the responsibility of the Department for International Development. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) seeks to help bring an end to the severe problems Colombia is facing, including that of its internally displaced people (IDPs), by engaging with the Colombian Government and international partners to address human rights issues and in working to encourage a peace process. We also actively support with FCO funds a number of grass roots projects and local NGOs assisting IDPs and indigenous communities. We do so in partnership with development agencies such as the UNHCR.

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Colombia regarding the treatment of international human rights organisations in that country operating within Colombian laws which promote peace and civil society. [180253]

Mr. Rammell: The UK attaches great importance to international human rights organisations being able to carry out their work in Colombia without undue hindrance on the part of the Colombian authorities. During my visit to Colombia on 21 and 22 June, I was able to raise these issues with Vice-President Santos and other Colombian Ministers, and seek clarification about recent statements by President Uribe on this matter. I reiterated our view that such NGOs have a key role to play in helping to tackle Colombia's problems, and urged the Colombian Government to work constructively with them.

Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the hon. Member for West Chelmsford will receive a response to his letter of 6 February to Mr. Jonathan Powell, transferred to his Department on 20 February, concerning his constituent Mr. Raplty. [180605]

Mr. Rammell: My noble Friend the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, replied to the hon. Member's letter on 25 June 2004.

EU Constitutional Treaty

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* representatives of EU institutions and *(b)* counterparts in other EU member states regarding an abbreviated title for the draft Constitutional Treaty for the EU. [180722]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held any discussions with my EU counterparts or with representatives of the institutions on an abbreviated title for the new Constitutional Treaty.

EU Policy (Voting Method)

Mrs. Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's statements of 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1091 and 1094, in answer to the hon. Members for Tiverton and Honiton and for Congleton (Ann Winterton), what voting method will be used to determine policy on the co-ordination of EU economic policy. [180601]

Mr. MacShane: Article I-11.3 of the draft constitutional treaty provides that member states coordinate their economic policies within arrangements as determined by Part III.

Gibraltar

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guarantees he has obtained from the Spanish Government that cruise ships will not be denied entry to Spanish ports if they call at Gibraltar first. [180936]

Mr. MacShane: We have received no such guarantees to date. We continue to seek a permanent solution to this issue in contacts with both the Spanish Government and the European Commission. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the Spanish Foreign Minister, Senor Moratinos, on 20 May that we regarded Spanish interference as unacceptable and illegal. I can report that, since 21 May, there have been no further incidents that have come to the Government's attention. The Foreign Secretary has also written to Senor Moratinos to underline the need to avoid any repetition of these actions.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the Government have received from the EU Commission to its representations about the denial of entry of cruise ships to Spanish ports when they also call at Gibraltar; and if he will make a statement. [180937]

Mr. MacShane: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 23 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1449–50W. We continue to press for a permanent solution to the problem.

Israel/Palestine

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of Israeli civilians killed since the beginning of the intifada in September 2000; and how many were under the age of 18. [180074]

Mr. MacShane: We estimate that 944 Israeli civilians have been killed since the beginning of the intifada in September 2000. This estimate is based on a variety of sources, including the UN, NGOs and the media. We do not hold figures for those killed under the age of 18 years..

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with members of the Quartet on sanctions against Israel to encourage compliance with the road map. [180197]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed sanctions against Israel with members of the Quartet (UN, EU, US, Russia). The Government believe that, as a friend of Israel and the Palestinians, we can best exert influence and encourage both sides to take the steps needed for progress through close engagement and negotiation. We do not believe that sanctions would bring the parties any nearer to a peaceful resolution.

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Israel regarding the plans they recently announced to build more homes in west bank settlements to house people evacuated from the Gaza Strip. [180198]

Mr. MacShane: The UK was party to the European Council statement of 17–18 June reaffirming the earlier statement of 17 May setting out the principle that withdrawal from Gaza could represent a significant step towards the implementation of the roadmap provided that a number of conditions are adhered to. One such condition is that withdrawal should not

"involve a transfer of settlement activity to the west bank".

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Israeli Government concerning targeted assassinations of Palestinians in Ariel and Nablus. [180199]

Mr. MacShane: We have repeatedly made clear to the Government of Israel that their policy of targeted assassinations, regardless of where they occur, is illegal, unjustified and counter-productive. Both Israel and the Palestinians must refrain from actions that may further escalate tensions, including any more such killings.

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Israel concerning the construction of the security wall east of Ariel in the occupied territories since the USA and UK agreed to the plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. [180200]

Mr. MacShane: Building the barrier on occupied territory is unlawful. We have consistently made our opposition to the route of the barrier clear to the Israeli Government. We will continue to do so.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions the Government have applied to *(a)* the state of Israel and *(b)* Palestine for breaches of international law since September 2000. [180087]

Mr. MacShane: The Government have not applied any sanctions to the state of Israel or Palestine for breaches of international law since September 2000. The Government believe that, as a friend of Israel and the Palestinians, we can best exert influence and encourage both sides to take the steps needed for progress through close engagement and negotiation. We do not believe that sanctions would bring the parties any nearer to a peaceful resolution.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much aid the Government have given *(a)* directly and *(b)* through non-governmental organisations to Palestine in each year since 1997. [180088]

Hilary Benn: The information is as follows.

UK West Bank and Gaza Strip bilateral expenditure: 1996–2004

Financial year	*Total expenditure (£ million)*	*Percentage support to the Palestinian Authority (PA)*[1]	*Percentage support to civil society*[2]
1996–97	5.0	[3]—	[3]—
1997–98	6.0	[3]—	[3]—
1998–99	5.2	27	73
1999–2000	8.0	34	66
2000–01	9.0	36	64
2001–02	14.5	26	74
2002–03	15.2	51	49
2003–04[4]	16.2	58	42

[1] The vast majority of these funds have been provided through independent project managers. Recent financial management reforms in the PA have meant we now provide some funding directly to the PA's budget.

[2] Includes funding to NGOs and through independent project managers.

[3] Accurate data to calculate the breakdown of expenditure for 1996–97 and 1997–98 is not readily available.

[4] Figures for 2003–04 are provisional.

In addition the UK also provides funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for support to Palestinian refugees in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

UK UNRWA expenditure 1996–2004

Financial year	*Total expenditure (£ million)*
1996–97	8.0
1997–98	10.0
1998–99	3.5
1999–2000	13.0
2000–01	19.0
2001–02	25.0
2002–03	19.0
2003–04	23.6

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of Palestinian civilians killed since September 2000; and how many were under 18. [180090]

Mr. MacShane: We estimate that 3,242 Palestinian civilians have been killed since the beginning of the intifada in September 2000. This estimate is based on a variety of sources, including the UN, NGOs and the media. We do not hold figures for those killed under the age of 18 years.

Leaflets

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 64W, on leaflet production (costs), what the purpose of the leaflets was; and by what means they were distributed. [180073]

Mr. MacShane: The purpose of the leaflets was to provide information on EU activities relevant to the towns and cities concerned. The leaflets were distributed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office via local MPs, MEPs, the publicity teams of county councils and Government offices, European Public Information Centres, libraries, Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Universities, Chambers of Commerce, and other organisations.

MKO (Iran/Iraq)

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the MKO organisation and its aims for Iran; and what estimate he has made of the number of Iranian civilians who have lost their lives following explosions initiated by that organisation. [180662]

Mr. Rammell: The Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK or MKO) is a proscribed organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000. It professes to be campaigning for democracy in Iran. But its record of violence extends over several decades. We have no independent confirmation of the number of people who have died at its hands. But the MEK itself has admitted to killing several thousand people since the 1979 revolution in Iran.

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many persons he estimates are resident in the MKO training camp in Iraq; what protection is being given to the camp by the foreign troops in Iraq; and what plans are being made for the location or relocation of the camp residents and the materials in the camp after the transfer of power to the Interim Government in Iraq. [180663]

Mr. Rammell: About 3,800 people are detained at Camp Ashraf, the base of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in Iraq. They are under the protection of US forces, who have sole responsibility for them and the camp. Plans for the camp and the detainees during the transition period are a matter for the US authorities and the Iraqi Interim Government.

Public Diplomacy Unit

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current staffing level of the Public Diplomacy Unit is. [179908]

Mr. MacShane: There are currently 28 staff in the Public Diplomacy Policy Department (which is responsible for overseeing public diplomacy work

overseas) and seven staff in the EU Communications Team (which carries out a public diplomacy function on European issues in relation to the British public).

Sri Lanka

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make representations to the Sri Lankan authorities about the attack on the house of Pastor Kumarasira of Peniel Evangelical Church in Hali-ela, Badulla, on 29 April; [180304]

(2) if he will make representations to the Sri Lankan authorities about *(a)* attacks on churches in Sri Lanka and *(b)* the closure of churches because of intimidation; [180305]

(3) if he will make representations to the Sri Lankan authorities concerning the attack on the Christian Fellowship Church in Wadduwa, Kalutara district, on Easter Day. [180306]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are concerned about reports of attacks against Christian groups in Sri Lanka, including the two specific attacks referred to. We condemn all instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief, wherever they happen and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. We regret the closure of any place of worship due to intolerance or intimidation. Our high commission in Colombo is monitoring the situation in Sri Lanka closely. High commission staff have regular contact with the main Christian leaders in Sri Lanka, who are trying to resolve the issues behind the attacks through meetings with Buddhist and other religious leaders. The Christian leaders have advised against formal representations to the Sri Lankan authorities while these efforts continue. But we have urged the authorities to ensure that those responsible for these attacks are brought to justice and that the rights of all religious minorities in Sri Lanka are respected.

Sudan

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the United Nations about Sudan's membership of the UN Commission on Human Rights. [179934]

Mr. Mullin: None. Each regional group represented in the Commission on Human Rights has a certain number of seats allocated to it. Unless the group itself puts forward more candidates than seats, their nominations are passed without a vote. Sudan's membership of the UN Commission on Human Rights thus follows agreement by the African Group to put them forward as part of their pre-agreed regional nomination. Neither the UK nor any other country has any locus to influence the decisions of another regional group. That said, the Government believe membership of the Commission on Human Rights brings with it responsibilities and members should meet certain minimum standards of behaviour regarding the implementation of human rights in their own countries. We are working with others to identify ways to improve the quality of membership.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement was signed; when it was originally set to expire; when it was renewed; and if he will make a statement; [181118]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the key points of the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement; and if he will make a statement; [181119]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the obligations put on the Government of Sudan by the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement; what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of these obligations; and if he will make a statement. [181120]

Mr. Mullin: The 8 April Ceasefire Agreement provided for a 45-day ceasefire. At the end of this 45-day period it was automatically renewed for a further 45 days. The agreement requires the parties to provide humanitarian access to civilian populations, and to ensure that all armed groups under their control comply with the agreement. It also provides for a Cease-fire Commission, and recognises the need for

"a mechanism for a political solution".

Humanitarian access is improving, and the AU Ceasefire Commission is deploying. On 18 June President Bashir made a public announcement of his intention to disarm all outlaws, Janjaweed and armed militias in Darfur. We are urging the Sudanese Government to act quickly to translate this statement into action. We are also pressing the parties to work together to find a political solution to the underlying causes of the conflict. None of the parties has yet fully complied with the terms of the ceasefire agreement.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* US, *(b)* European and *(c)* African counterparts with regard to submitting a resolution on Darfur to the UN Security Council; what progress he has made on this; and if he will make a statement. [179633]

Mr. MacShane: Our priority is to improve the situation on the ground. So our efforts are focused on stopping the fighting, ensuring civilian protection and responding to the humanitarian crisis. Deployment of the African Union-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism has now begun. We have already contributed £2 million to the AU mission, and we are supporting the deployment of UN Human Rights monitors. We are also working with the Government of Sudan on humanitarian access, and have allocated £34.5 million for humanitarian assistance in response to the crisis.

Darfur has been discussed in the Security Council on a number of occasions and we are in close contact with the US, other European and African members of the Council. On 25 May the Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement expressing grave concern at the situation in Darfur. The 11 June Security Council Resolution on Sudan, which focused on the comprehensive peace agreement and plans for a UN Peace Support Operation, called on the parties in Darfur to halt the fighting and conclude a political agreement without delay. We will continue to consider with all partners what further pressure can be brought to bear.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the mandate is of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees monitors in Darfur; and how they will spread across Darfur's states; [179650]

(2) what proposals there are to link United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees monitors with the African Union missions to Darfur. [179651]

Mr. MacShane: The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) plans to deploy eight human rights monitors as part of a"90-day action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in Darfur". A copy of this plan has been placed in the Library of the House. Eight officers will be deployed: one in Khartoum, two in Nyala; two in El Fashir, and three in El Genena. We are providing financial support to the OHCHR for this purpose. We would expect the OHCHR monitors to cooperate with the African Union-led ceasefire monitoring mission.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role he proposes for the UN in peace talks in Darfur. [179652]

Mr. MacShane: The UN Secretary General and his Special Representative for Sudan plan to visit Darfur later this month. We continue to urge all the parties to the conflict in Darfur to engage in political talks as soon as possible.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the UN special rapporteur on executions' statement of 13 June regarding the extrajudicial and summary executions of civilians in Darfur by members of the Sudanese armed forces, the Popular Defence Forces and members of the Janjaweed; and if he will make a statement. [179744]

Mr. MacShane: We are very concerned by reports of extra-judicial executions. Our embassy in Khartoum has raised the matter with the Government of Sudan and is waiting for a response.

Our priority is to stop the fighting, so we are urging the parties to comply fully with the 8 April ceasefire agreement. Deployment of the African Union-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism has now begun. We have already contributed £2 million to the AU mission, and we are supporting the deployment of UN Human Rights monitors. We welcome President Bashir's announcement of 18 June of his intention to disarm all outlaws, Janjaweed and armed militias in Darfur. We have consistently urged the Sudanese Government to act quickly to rein in the Janjaweed and have encouraged them to translate their recent statement into action.

Turkey

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the activities of the Kurdistan Workers Party in Turkey since 1 June; and if he will make a statement. [180548]

Mr. MacShane: We are aware of the statement from the Kurdistan Workers Party (also known as PKK/ Kongra-Gel) ending their "ceasefire" with effect from 1 June 2004. In recent months there appears to have been an increase in the number of clashes between security forces and militants in the south east of Turkey. We monitor the situation in the south east closely and our embassy in Ankara is in regular contact with Turkish officials, politicians and NGOs on this issue.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* representatives of the UK Government have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the Government of Turkey concerning their planned reaction to the incidents in Hakkari and Hatay province on 15 June; and if he will make a statement. [180549]

Mr. MacShane: We have not discussed the specific incidents which took place in Hatay and Hakkari on 15 June with the Turkish Government. However, we monitor the situation in the south east of Turkey closely and our embassy in Ankara is in regular contact with Turkish officials, politicians and NGOs about the situation there.

Uganda

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Uganda concerning the protection of civilians from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the resettlement of LRA soldiers. [179892]

Mr. MacShane: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply that my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Mullin) gave him on 3 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 982W. Since then, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised our concerns about the conflict in the north, including the need for confidence-building measures and the rehabilitation of former LRA combatants, with President Museveni when he visited Uganda on 5–6 April. Our High Commission remains in constant touch with the President about this issue.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to facilitate fraternal visits from Uganda to churches in England. [180311]

Mr. Mullin: Although we recognise and appreciate the value of contacts between the respective churches in the UK and Uganda, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not directly involved in these relationships.

US Navy Visit (St. Helena)

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what permission was *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted for US Navy personnel to visit St. Helena in December 2003. [180658]

Mr. Rammell: A request for clearance for US Navy Personnel to visit St. Helena in December 2003 was made to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 3 October 2003. A formal diplomatic clearance request was submitted the same day and clearance was granted on 28 November 2003.

Visas

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visa refusals he has overturned in the last 12 months. [179907]

Mr. MacShane: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Mullin) who holds responsibility for entry clearance has overturned 16 visa refusals in the last 12 months.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visas were granted in *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria in each month in 2003. [179909]

Mr. MacShane: The information is as follows:

	Visas issued in:	
2003	*Romania*	*Bulgaria*
January	1,225	1,008
February	1,404	1,212
March	1,949	1,479
April	1,898	1,944
May	2,478	2,254
June	2,905	1,748
July	3,700	2,323
August	2,423	1,797
September	2,565	1,584
October	2,346	2,302
November	2,728	1,606
December	1,841	1,663

The table gives the numbers of visas issued in Romania, at our Embassy in Bucharest and in Bulgaria, at our embassy in Sofia, during each month of 2003.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the refusal of visitors' visas to the group from Uganda who were due to visit the Deanery of Chippenham on 16 June led by the Reverend Shem Nelson Nsubuga. [180316]

Mr. Mullin *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* I regret that I cannot provide this information as it is not our practice to disclose details of individual entry clearance cases in a public forum. I am therefore withholding the information requested under exemption 5 of Part 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. However, I will write to the hon. Member with regard to this matter.

West Papua

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's position in relation to the Indonesian occupation of West Papua. [180254]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Province of Papua is an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia but has devolved powers under the 2001 Special Autonomy Law. We have consistently said to the Government of Indonesia that we believe that special autonomy should be implemented as soon as possible.

Zimbabwe

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the steps his Department has taken in the past year to facilitate the return of Zimbabwe to the Councils of the Commonwealth. [180134]

Mr. MacShane: We have taken no such steps. Zimbabwe withdrew voluntarily from the Commonwealth in December 2003. If Zimbabwe should wish to re-apply, it will need to demonstrate to all Commonwealth members its commitment to Commonwealth principles, including respect for the rule of law, human rights and good governance.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's policy with regard to Zimbabwe's membership of the *(a)* International Monetary Fund, *(b)* World Bank and *(c)* African Development Bank. [180138]

Mr. Mullin: The Fund and the banks have clear procedures and recommendations for dealing with countries who persistently fail to service debt effectively. The UK provides support and ensures the IMF implements its recommended policies for addressing these issues. So far, with Zimbabwe, the Fund and the banks have followed their due process and implemented penalties accordingly which we have supported. The IMF Executive Board will consider Zimbabwe's position later in the year.

DEFENCE

Al-Yamamah Project

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether irregularities have been discovered among the claims for payment to his Department by BAE Systems under the Al-Yamamah project since 1999; and if he will make a statement; [180079]

(2) what arrangements have been put in place in his Department to verify the authenticity of claims submitted by BAE Systems under the Al-Yamamah programme; and how that process is audited; [180080]

(3) how many claims for payment submitted to his Department by BAE Systems, related to the Al-Yamamah project, have been rejected in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [180081]

Mr. Hoon: The Al-Yamamah contracts provide for a set of accounting processes, jointly agreed between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabian Governments, which cover the endorsement and presentation for payment of claims submitted by BAE Systems. Claims are endorsed by the UK Government for payment only where they comply with the terms and prices contained in the associated contract and are supported by documentation confirming contractual performance, e.g. Certificates of Acceptance or Milestone Achievement. Where these criteria are not met, claims are held back or withdrawn until the

appropriate paperwork is available or re-submitted. While records are not kept of these occurrences, these arrangements mean that very few claims are finally rejected. There is no evidence that staff of the Saudi Armed Forces Project Office have knowingly received or endorsed claims that contain improper payments of the type alleged in recent press articles.

BAE Systems

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* the Permanent Secretary in his Department has held with members of the United States Administration since 1 January 1999 regarding BAE Systems' commitment to sign up to the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. [176051]

Mr. Hoon: In 2002, the Permanent Under-Secretary referred, in correspondence with the United States Administration, to the briefing that BAE Systems had provided to the US Department of Defense on the steps the Company had taken to ensure compliance with the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. I am aware of no other relevant discussions.

Ballykinler Barracks

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the incident at Ballykinler Barracks on 16 May. [179793]

Mr. Ingram: The incident at Ballykinler on 16 May is the subject of an investigation by the Royal Military Police. Until this investigation is complete it would be inappropriate for me to comment on this matter.

Cadet Force (Chorley)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the strength of the cadet force based at Chorley under the responsibility of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy; and what the budget of each is in 2003–04. [161247]

Mr. Caplin: The information is as follows:

Army

Manpower Strength

Chorley Army Cadet Force has a present strength of 53 cadets and five staff. There are no Combined Cadet Force (ACF) sections in the Chorley area.

Budget

The consolidated and travel budget for Chorley ACF for Financial Year 2003–04 is £2,404.00

The payment for Financial Year 2003–04 for training days for adult staff was £7,019.00.

Chorley ACF is a unit member of the Lancashire ACF. This county force is administered by the North West RFCA (Reserve Forces and Cadet Association.). The associations have offices within the Regional Brigade headquarters based at Preston.

Royal Air Force

Manpower Strength

Chorley is the home of 92 (Chorley) ATC Squadron. It has 54 cadets (40 male, 14 female) and nine staff.

There are no CCF (RAF) units in the constituency.

Budget

ATC Squadrons are not allocated a budget from public funds. Claims for authorised pay days (for volunteer uniformed staff) and travel and subsistence allowance can be claimed from the disaggregated budget held by the Regional HQ or Wing HQ. The budget for building maintenance is held and controlled by HQ air cadets on an as required/priority basis.

Royal Navy

Manpower Strength

Chorley SCC (Sea Cadet Centre) currently has 33 cadets in the unit.

There are no CCF (RN) or RN Recognised Sea Scout units in the Chorley area.

Budget

The Chorley SCC unit does not have a direct budget provided by the RN.

Each SCC unit is an independent charitable organisation, under the management of a Unit Management Committee. Units are responsible for their own running costs, i.e. buildings and insurance, heat/light, etc. Unit funding is raised by the cadets in local initiatives, such as flag days etc. MOD does provide assistance by way of uniforms, stores, and (adult cadet) training. This is provided under an MOU between MOD and the SCA (Sea Cadet Association).

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2004, to question 178707, whether he permits US forces based in the UK to hold chemical and biological material pursuant to their programmes to protect against chemical and biological weapons. [180400]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* I assume the hon. Member is referring to my answer of 18 June 2004, Official Report, columns 1140–41W. The basing of chemical and biological counter-weapon material on United Kingdom territory by the United States is a matter for joint decision by the two Governments in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time. There are no United States chemical or biological weapons held in the United Kingdom

Deaths and Injuries in Service

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel have been *(a)* killed in action, *(b)* injured in action, *(c)* killed in vehicle accidents, *(d)* injured in vehicle accidents, *(e)* killed in sporting accidents and *(f)* murdered in each of the past five years; and how many committed suicide in each of those years. [179484]

Mr. Caplin: In the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2003, there were 419 deaths among United Kingdom service personnel in the categories listed. Of these, 40 were killed in action, 275 died in vehicle accidents, seven died in sporting accidents, 12 died as a result of assaults and 85 were suicide or open verdict deaths recorded by a coroner (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or the Procurator Fiscal (Scotland). In this period, there were a further 30 deaths for which we are waiting a verdict.

The findings of criminal trials is not routinely collected by the Ministry of Defence, so it is not possible to state how many of the 12 deaths by assault may have been due to murder.

A breakdown of these deaths by year is provided as follows:

Table A: Deaths in service personnel: 1999 to 2003

Causes or circumstances of death	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*Total*
Killed in Action[1]	0	1	0	0	39	40
Vehicles accidents (excluding killed in action)	47	53	56	66	53	275
Sporting accidents	0	2	2	3	0	7
Assault	1	3	1	0	4	12
Suicide/Open verdicts	19	27	11	15	13	85

[1] Includes one road traffic accident death in 2003 classified as killed in action.

During the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2003, 4,876 service personnel have been injured while on duty involving military vehicles. A breakdown of these injuries by year is provided in table B. Information on service personnel injured while off duty involving vehicles is not collected by the MOD. Information on injuries sustained in action is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table B: On duty injuries in service personnel resulting from military vehicle accidents: 1999 to 2003

	Vehicle accidents
1999	1,248
2000	964
2001	922
2002	904
2003	838
Total	4,876

Defence Contracts

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list defence contracts *(a)* awaiting decision and *(b)* signed off in the last 12 months. [180055]

Mr. Ingram: Information on individual defence contracts awaiting decision is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost (Exemption 9 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information).

During the financial year 2003–04 the Ministry of Defence awarded just over 24,500 contracts valued at £9.3 billion. The details of these contracts cannot be listed without incurring disproportionate cost (Exemption 9 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information).

Departmental IT Infrastructure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what savings he expects to make following the privatisation of the Ministry's IT infrastructure; [176376]

(2) when he expects to make a decision on the awarding of the contract following the privatisation of the Ministry's IT infrastructure; [176377]

(3) what estimate he has made of the impact that privatisation of the Ministry's IT infrastructure will have on his Ministry's personnel; [176378]

(4) if he will make a statement on the privatisation of his Ministry's IT infrastructure. [176379]

Mr. Ingram: A key component of the Defence Change Programme is the provision of a Defence Information Infrastructure (DII).

A competition is currently under way to appoint a Delivery Partner under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract who will be responsible for the supply of the required infrastructure and services across Defence. It is intended that the programme will, in time, subsume and then replace the existing disparate IT infrastructures. It is anticipated that this contract will be in place by early 2005 with the entire programme completed by early 2009.

The DII programme is not a privatisation of IT infrastructure. Under the terms of the Public Private Partnership arrangement, the Ministry of Defence will continue to own the infrastructure but the delivery of the sendee will be the responsibility of the Delivery Partner. Currently, much of the design, provision and management of our existing infrastructure is already outsourced, albeit under a number of different arrangements.

The DII programme is crucial to the delivery of the Defence Change Programme and has the potential to support delivery of significant benefits across Defence. The DII programme will enable Defence to realise a greatly increased capability at reduced cost. It will provide pan-defence corporate processes that improve the way Defence conducts its business on a day-to-day basis. In addition, it will enable our battlefield systems to be more closely integrated with our support systems, leading to improved decision making and intelligence collection and analysis.

The savings generated from the more efficient provision of computing facilities are being used to increase the capability of the infrastructure. This includes better resilience and provision for business continuity, the near doubling of the number of users supported by the infrastructure, the provision of a single point of contact for all services offered by the Defence Communications Services Agency (DCSA), unified records management, and much improved e-mail and collaborative working services.

The provision of new tools and new ways of working means that users of the system will have more powerful capability at their fingertips to enable them to be increasingly effective in delivering their objectives. DII will therefore have a significant impact on the way all

users are able to exploit the power of the infrastructure in delivering their outputs, both in the fixed and in the deployed environment.

Those civilians employed in support roles for the current infrastructure will be transferred to the Delivery Partner (DP) under TUPE arrangements once the DP takes control of the management of the system that they support. It is expected that there will be some exceptions to this in order to provide support for systems that have operational or specialist constraints and require the retention of in house support staff. There will also be those who need to be retained to form the core of the Intelligent Customer Function (ICF). The MOD will be retaining Military Service Providers (MSPs) to support the infrastructure when it is deployed for military operations.

Fire Study 2000

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to begin the implementation of Fire Study 2000; and if he will make a statement. [179533]

Mr. Ingram: The future organisation of the Defence Fire Services is dependent upon the result of the Airfield Support Services Project (ASSP) which is examining the most cost effective way of delivering airfield support and wider fire services without compromising operational capability or safety. In the meantime, but without prejudice to the final outcome of ASSP, we are considering whether there is benefit in proceeding with the implementation of Fire Study 2000 separately. However, at present no decision on this matter has been made.

Fisheries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fisheries protection vessels are in operation; and where they operate. [180411]

Mr. Ingram: The RN Fishery Protection Squadron currently has three River Class patrol vessels and three Hunt Class MCMVs allocated to Fishery Protection duty, although the number of ships actually on patrol at any given time will depend on the level of fishing activity. Other RN ships can also be called upon to carry out Fishery Protection duties if so required.

The RN Fishery Protection Squadron patrols the areas within the British Fishery Limits around the English, Welsh, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Island coasts. The RN also inspects British fishing vessels in international waters. The Scottish Fishery Protection Agency is responsible for patrolling the waters off the Scottish coast.

Gaul

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what investigation has been made into the claim by former Chief Petty Officer Derek Barron regarding the sinking of the fishing vessel The Gaul in the Barents Sea in 1974. [179334]

Mr. Ingram: Investigation of Mr. Barron's claim is a matter for the Formal Inquiry into the sinking of the Gaul, which is being conducted by the Wreck Commissioner. The Ministry of Defence is committed to giving every assistance to the Inquiry on this and on all other matters.

Gibraltar Regiment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the Gibraltar Regiment. [173373]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 5 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1528W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Mr. Rosindell).

Defence Expenditure

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Government's expenditure plans 2004–05 to 2005–06 will be published. [180561]

Mr. Ingram: We expect to publish the Government's Expenditure Plans for the Ministry of Defence 2004–05 to 2005–06 before the summer recess.

Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to assist the Royal British Legion with the independent inquiry into Gulf War Syndrome. [179759]

Mr. Caplin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1297W, to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Mr. Tyler).

Interrogation Techniques

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed that UK forces in Iraq were practising the banned interrogation technique of hooding prisoners; if he will list the regiments in which the practice was identified; and on what date and on whose authority an order was issued to cease the practice. [174552]

Mr. Ingram: We are not aware of any incidents in which United Kingdom interrogators are alleged to have used hooding as an interrogation technique.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account he took of *(a)* the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in Ireland *v.* United Kingdom to outlaw the use of the five techniques of interrogation found to be in breach of Article 3 of the European Convention and *(b)* the response of the then Government to that judgment in setting the parameters for conduct by British forces in Iraq in respect of individuals held. [179056]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2004]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1693W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Hull, North (Mr. McNamara). This remains the Government position. It is made clear to all armed forces personnel undergoing training in interrogation that the five techniques, hooding, wall standing, sleep deprivation, food deprivation, and white noise, are in all circumstances unacceptable as methods of interrogation.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Coalition military operations have damaged the remains of ancient Babylon; and if he will make a statement. [179337]

Mr. Ingram: The Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraq Ministry of Culture are currently investigating claims that Coalition Military may have caused damage to sites of archaeological and cultural interest at Babylon. Babylon is outside the United Kingdom's area of Operation in Iraq, and no members of the UK armed forces are based there.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* civilians, *(b)* coalition forces and *(c)* terrorists killed in Iraq since the end of the war; and what the evidential basis is for his estimate. [174830]

Mr. Ingram: Since the end of major combat operations on 1 May 2003, United Kingdom forces have suffered 25 fatalities. Those suffered by other members of the International Coalition are a matter for them to comment on.

Since 1 May, UK Units have reported all confirmed fatalities of which they are aware arising from incidents in which they were involved and we have put in place a mechanism for central collation of unit reports. However it is not always possible to confirm whether fatalities or injuries have occurred during a particular incident. For example, in some incidents we believe Iraqi dead and/or injured may have been taken away by their compatriots before UK Forces could investigate. In other incidents UK Forces have been forced to withdraw before any Iraqi fatalities and/or injuries could be confirmed. Consequently we have no viable means of assessing the completeness of the information.

The same difficulty arises in estimating the number of terrorists killed.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 6 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 235W, on Iraq, if he will name the Iraqi gunman killed in self-defence. [177588]

Mr. Ingram: The gunman has been identified as Hilal Finjan Salman.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the senior officer of the First Regiment Royal Highland Fusiliers responsible for the running of the United Kingdom detention facility in Shaibah, Iraq is; how often he makes reports of conditions within this facility; what items such reports cover; whether the Secretary of State automatically receives a copy of reports made on this facility; and if he will make a statement. [177706]

Mr. Ingram: The Officer Commanding of the UK's Divisional Temporary Detention facility produces a daily situation report which is sent to the Multinational Division (Southeast) and to the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters. The report covers significant events, and miscellaneous issues. The Secretary of State does not automatically receive a copy, but is made aware of all matters of importance.

I am withholding the officer's name under Exemption 12 of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the medical records of those Iraqis held in detention by British forces in Southern Iraq have been provided to those interrogating them. [179024]

Mr. Ingram: Individuals detained by British forces in Iraq undergo a full medical examination to ensure detention does not pose a risk to their health. A further medical examination is conducted on those individuals identified for interrogation in order to assess whether such activity constitutes a risk to their health. The records of such medicals are available to those personnel involved in interrogating the individual.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the line of command is that reports directly to him from persons who have direct responsibility for the running of British military and civilian prisons in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [177243]

Mr. Ingram: The line of command from the United Kingdom detention facility in Iraq is as follows:

Secretary of State for Defence

Chief of Defence Staff

Chief of Joint Operations, Permanent Joint Headquarters

General Officer Commanding, Multi-National Division (South East)

Officer Commanding, UK Detention Facility

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women working in British-run military and civilian prisons in Iraq are employed by private contractors; to whom they are responsible; what their terms of employment are; what training they are given before becoming a police officer; and if he will make a statement. [177246]

Mr. Ingram: There are no employees of private contractors working in the British detention facility in Iraq.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been during the last 12 months to the Government of the running of British military and civilian prisons in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [177251]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence operates a single military detention facility, which opened in December 2003. The cost of the facility, up to 31 May 2004, has been approximately £684,000.

There are no civilian prisons operated by the MOD in Iraq.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that conditions of detention in Iraq fully comply with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. [166938]

Mr. Ingram: A mechanism to monitor conditions at the UK Divisional Temporary Detention Facility in Iraq is in place. The International Committee of the Red Cross, who are the internationally recognised monitors of implementation of the Geneva Conventions, make regular visits to the Facility. Discussions routinely take place between local ICRC representatives and British

military staff to resolve any issues relating to the conditions in which internees are held. The ICRC produce confidential working papers which are passed to the UK General Officer Commanding in Iraq, and are staffed through the Chain of Command to the Permanent Joint Headquarters and to the MOD if appropriate. Ministers are routinely kept abreast of the results of the ICRC's continuing scrutiny of British-run detention facilities in Iraq, and any substantive issues raised by the ICRC are promptly brought to their attention.

Mr. Page: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate has been made of the number of off duty members of the Iraqi Security forces among the killed and wounded of the Iraqi insurgents. [170177]

Mr. Ingram: Since 1 June 2003 we believe the Iraqi Security forces have suffered about 300 fatalities. We do not hold information on whether the fatalities occurred when they were on, or off-duty.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of private contractors in the *(a)* administration, *(b)* interrogation and *(c)* handling of prisoners under UK jurisdiction in Iraq; which contractors are involved; and which laws are applicable to their activities. [171443]

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether civilian *(a)* contractors and *(b)* interrogators are employed in Iraqi jails under the control of British forces. [171987]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the minimum requirements demanded by his Department are of the individual contractors employed to be involved in the detention of the prisoners of UK forces in Iraq; and at what level in his Department the decision was taken to employ each in these roles; [172325]

(2) what factors underlay the decision to employ private contractors to assist with the detention of prisoners of UK forces in Iraq in preference to *(a)* his Department's staff and *(b)* seconded prison officers from the UK; and if he will make a statement; [172326]

(3) how many private contractors are involved in dealing with prisoners of UK forces in Iraq; from which companies they are employed; at which locations they are used; who is responsible for there behaviour; what their responsibilities are; what the cost of their employment was in April; and for how long he intends to employ them. [172329]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 11 May 2004]:* There are no private contractors employed in the direct administration, interrogation or handling of prisoners under the United Kingdom jurisdiction in Iraq.

Iraqi criminal justice system prisons are under the control of the Coalition Provisional Authority through the Ministry of Justice. The administration and handling of prisoners in Ministry of Justice run prisons is carried out by Iraqi Correctional Service employees. The Ministry of Justice employs local contractors in the following capacities.

Septic tank emptying
Catering
Food provision
Water supply
Building works
Guarding prison sites

No interrogation takes place in Ministry of Justice prisons.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the employment of civilian *(a)* contractors and *(b)* interrogators in Iraqi jails is part of the Coalition Provisional Authority's military strategy. [171986]

Mr. Ingram: Internment facilities operated by members of the international coalition for the security of their forces are not within the auspices of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

We are not in a position to comment on prisons and other criminal detention facilities operated within the Iraqi judicial system.

The UK Divisional Temporary Detention Facility does not employ civilians as contractors or interrogators in the direct administration, interrogation or handling of prisoners.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum length of time is that Iraqi *(a)* civilians, *(b)* former military persons and *(c)* others can be detained without charge; what procedures govern the release of these individuals without charge; and if he will make a statement. [172303]

Mr. Ingram: Article 78 of the IV Geneva Convention (1949) allows the UK as the Occupying Power in Iraq to intern people where it considers it necessary for imperative reasons of security.

Internees' cases are all reviewed regularly, however, they may be held until such time as they are no longer considered a threat to Coalition Forces.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions the Department issued in the last year concerning *(a)* the handling of Iraqi prisoners and *(b)* methods for extracting information from Iraqis. [172993]

Mr. Hoon: Guidance on prisoner handling is contained in Joint Warfare Publication 1–10 (Prisoner of War Handling). It emphasises that prisoners are at all times to be treated in accordance with the relevant Geneva protocols.

JWP 1–10 also provides basic guidance on interrogation. However, primary guidance on acceptable interrogation techniques is given in-a stringent course which all UK interrogators must successfully complete prior to undertaking any operational interrogations. The course also emphasises that individuals being questioned must be treated at all times in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

Sue Doughty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many hours of training on average British troops have received in Iraqi culture and customs prior to deployment in Iraq; [174725]

(2) whether there is a minimum level of training in Iraqi culture and customs for British troops prior to deployment in Iraq; [174726]

(3) what experts have been consulted in *(a)* formulating training programmes, *(b)* writing training material and *(c)* on the ground guidance for British troops on Iraqi culture and customs; and if he will make a statement; [174727]

(4) what topics and issues are covered in training given to British troops on Iraqi culture and customs prior to deployment in Iraq. [174728]

Mr. Ingram: Operational Training and Advisory Group sponsored pre-deployment training, given to each soldier deploying to Iraq, delivers a minimum level of cultural awareness briefings and practical training, delivered by experts from organisations such as The Babylon School of Arabic or the School of African and Oriental Studies.

This covers Iraqi culture and customs, basic language instruction and training to operate using interpreters. The briefings are delivered by instructors with a first hand knowledge of the area British troops will operate in. These briefings provide an overview, from an Iraqi perspective, of Iraqi history, religious issues and customs, family customs and everyday cultural awareness issues. The length of these briefings can vary, but average about one and a half hours.

Individual commanders then build on this foundation as part of their pre-deployment training. Army brigades routinely conduct cultural awareness study periods at the outset of their pre-deployment training. Cultural advisers subsequently support brigade pre-deployment packages providing cultural awareness training and advice, ranging from seminars in small groups through to full participation in field training.

The Royal United Services Institute, The School of Oriental and African Studies, The Institute for the Study of Islam and Christianity, The Babylon School of Arabic, and The German Institute for Middle East Studies, Hamburg, among others, have been consulted in the provision of cultural training for British troops.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he will use to decide whether more troops are to be deployed to Iraq after 30 June. [174855]

Mr. Ingram: United Kingdom Commanders in the Multi National Division South East regularly review the force level and mix to ensure that they have the necessary capability for likely tasks. We are also considering, with the other members of the Multi National Force, the levels and dispositions of Forces across Iraq that will be appropriate for the forthcoming Transitional period.

Kosovo

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether *(a)* UN and *(b)* NATO military personnel have been involved in Kosovo in illegal activities relating to sex trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [172301]

Mr. Ingram: The Government condemn the exploitation of vulnerable people, and expect United Kingdom military personnel to adhere to the rules for conduct on operations. Military personnel breaking these rules are dealt with under the relevant disciplinary procedures and, depending on the offence, UK criminal law. No UK personnel in Kosovo have been court marshalled for offences relating to sex trafficking, and no investigations are outstanding, though one individual was returned to the UK from Kosovo in 1999, and subsequently court marshalled, after visiting a brothel. We cannot comment on personnel from other states.

Nuclear Material (Transfer)

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the last transfer of nuclear material between the United States and the UK under the Mutual Defence Agreement took place; and if he will make a statement. [179691]

Mr. Ingram: The 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement makes provision for the transfer of special nuclear materials. Such transfers are in connection with nuclear warhead assurance and stockpile stewardship matters. I am withholding precise details of such transfers under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the question tabled by the hon. Member for Stafford on 21 April, ref. 168467. [179219]

Mr. Caplin: I replied to my hon. Friend today.

Portable Electrical Equipment

Mr. Flight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how often since 1997 *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public sector organisations have undergone portable appliance testing of IT equipment; and what the cost was of portable appliance testing in each year since 1997. [176573]

Mr. Ingram: Appliance Testing of IT equipment is a site responsibility. Information is not held centrally on the timings and the costs incurred for the testing of IT equipment could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

R21 Technologies (Ashford)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the instruction in R2I technologies at Ashford, Kent. [174788]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 May 2004]:* Resistance to Interrogation (R2I) training is now conducted in the UK by the Joint Services Intelligence Organisation (JSIO).

In order to give those military forces who are designated 'prone to capture' an indication of the stresses and pressures that they may face if they are

captured by an enemy, JSIO are authorised to conduct R2I training. During the course of such training, certain activities proscribed by the Geneva Conventions (GC) are employed. This is in order to give the best possible preparation to personnel likely to be deployed on operations where they will be most at risk from interrogation methods falling outside of the GC. Such activities only occur on designated exercises in a controlled and properly supervised environment by professionally trained personnel from JSIO supported by other appropriately trained staff. Those proscribed activities under the GC which 'prone to capture' British forces receive exposure to, include hooding, white noise and stress positions. It should be clearly understood that activities conducted under R2I training which are proscribed in the GC are neither taught nor reflected in UK interrogation training and practices, which are always conducted in accordance with the GC.

Recruitment Shortfalls

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army regiments are not using Commonwealth troops to fill recruitment shortfalls. [180056]

Mr. Caplin: Commonwealth citizens who enlist into the British Army are not recruited only to fill vacancies in specific regiments. They are eligible to serve in the Army providing they meet the relevant qualifying criteria, and are currently given the same choice of Career Employment Group as any other recruit.

Trident

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the functions of the *(a)* Mk98 MOD 5 Fire Control System and *(b)* SLBM Retargeting System; [179692]

(2) when the Mk 98 MOD 5 Fire Control system for Trident is due to enter service; and if he will make a statement; [179685]

(3) what the total cost of acquiring the *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software for (i) the MK98 MOD 5 Fire Control System and (ii) modifications to the Trident system under the SLBM Retargeting System was; and if he will make a statement. [179684]

Mr. Ingram: The Mk 98 Fire Control System is an important part of the equipment fitted on board a Vanguard class submarine. It draws together all the information needed to calculate the flight data required by a Trident missile prior to launch. The MK98 MOD 2 Fire Control System was installed on the submarines at build. The MK98 MOD 5 programme was undertaken to update hardware to overcome obsolescence and is now complete. Initial Operating Capability was achieved in September 2002 and all SSBNs had been modified by February 2003. The update programme, for hardware only, cost $39.810 million (including the costs of fitting) and $6.987 million for initial spares. Information on the costs of the related software modifications is not held separately from that relating to other software costs in this area. The UK has no requirement for a SLBM Retargeting System on Trident submarines, and has no plans to acquire that capability.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent per annum since 1993 on modifications to the shore-based target planning system for Trident; and if he will make a statement on the functions of these modifications. [179686]

Mr. Ingram: The shore-based target planning system for Trident has not changed significantly since 1993. The purpose of the modifications has been to update hardware and operating system software in accordance with good industry practice. In broad terms we spend around £250,000 per year (at current prices) on hardware updates, although this did peak at £584,000 in financial year 2001–02 when a more significant investment was made.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has drawn up for the use of satellites for EHF communications with Trident nuclear submarines; which satellites his Department plans to use for EHF communications with Trident nuclear submarines; and if he will make a statement on his Department's assessment of the importance of EHF communications with Trident nuclear submarines. [179687]

Mr. Ingram: Maintaining the effectiveness of Trident submarine communications is vital and these are kept under constant review to ensure that they support national deterrent policy.

Trident submarines use, and will continue to use, as many different systems as is required to assure reliable communications.

EHF is one of many technical solutions. It will continue to be considered as one choice available for submarine communications capability.

Typhoon

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the date of entry into service of the Typhoon aircraft. [180336]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 598W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

US Bases (UK)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether US aircraft armed with nuclear weapons seek permission from his Department for each flight they wish to make within UK airspace. [178708]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 14 June 2004]:* The use of facilities on United Kingdom territory by the United States is a matter for joint decision by the two Governments in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time.

Victor Bout

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has held with Mr. Victor Bout about the role of his companies in Iraq. [174772]

Mr. Ingram: We are not aware of a connection between UK forces in Iraq and any company that may be owned by Mr. Bout, and consequently no discussions have taken place.

West Midlands

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's land holdings in the West Midlands. [168467]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence owns or leases the following sites in the West Midlands—as defined by the area for which the Government Office for the West Midlands is responsible:

Establishment	*Location*	*County/district*
Birmingham: Army and RN Careers Info Office (CIO)	Birmingham	Birmingham
Birmingham: Defence Medical Services	Birmingham	Birmingham
Birmingham: DE Housing (various sites)	Birmingham	Birmingham
Birmingham: TAVRA Centre (various sites)	Birmingham	Birmingham
Sultan Coldfield: DEHQ	Sutton Coldfield	Birmingham
Sutton Coldfield: DE Housing	Sutton Coldfield	Birmingham
Sutton Coldfield: TAVRA Centre	Sutton Coldfield	Birmingham
Coventry: Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO)	Coventry	Coventry
Bromyard: TAVRA Centre	Bromyard	Herefordshire
Broomy Hill: Army Radio Station	Near Hereford	Herefordshire
Dinmore Hill: Army Radio Station	Near Wellington	Herefordshire
Garway Hill: Army Radio Station	Garway	Herefordshire
Hereford: Army Camp (Credenhill)	Hereford	Herefordshire
Hereford: AFCO	Hereford	Herefordshire
Hereford: DE Housing (various sites)	Hereford	Herefordshire
Pontrilas: Army Training Area	Pontrilas	Herefordshire
Preston Wynne Weather Station	Preston Wynne	Herefordshire
Ross-on-Wye: Army Rifle Range	Ross-on-Wye	Herefordshire
Ross-on-Wye: Weather Station	Ross-on-Wye	Herefordshire
Shobdon: Weather Station	Shobdon	Herefordshire
Oldbury: TAVRA Centre	Oldbury	Sandwell
Abdon Burf: Radio Station	Near Ditton Priors	Shropshire
Clee Hill: Weather Station	Near Ludlow	Shropshire
Cosford: DE Housing	Near Albrighton	Shropshire
Cosford: RAF	Near Albrighton	Shropshire
Grinshill: RAF Radio Station	Grinshill	Shropshire
Llansilin: Army Rifle Range	Llansilin	Shropshire
Nesscliffe: Army Training Area	Nesscliffe	Shropshire
Prees Green: RAF Radio Station	Prees Green	Shropshire
Shawbury: DE Housing	Shawbury	Shropshire
Shawbury: RAF	Shawbury	Shropshire
Shrewsbury: AFCO	Shrewsbury	Shropshire
Shrewsbury: Army HQ.	Shrewsbury	Shropshire
Shrewsbury: Army Museum	Shrewsbury	Shropshire
Shrewsbury: DE Housing (various sites)	Shrewsbury	Shropshire
Ternhill: Clive Barracks	Ternhill	Shropshire
Ternhill: DE Housing	Ternhill	Shropshire
Ternhill: RAF	Ternhill	Shropshire
Birmingham: Met Office	Birmingham	Solihull
Burton-on-Trent: Army CIO	Burton-on-Trent	Staffordshire
Fauld: RAF	Near Tutbury	Staffordshire
Leek: Army Camp (Anzio Camp)	Leek	Staffordshire
Leek: Army Training Area	Leek	Staffordshire
Leek: Weather Station	Leek	Staffordshire
Lichfield: DE Housing	Lichfield	Staffordshire
Lichfield: Whittington Bks/Ranges	Lichfield	Staffordshire
Pye Green: Army Radio Station	Pye Green	Staffordshire
Stafford: DE Housing	Stafford	Staffordshire
Stafford: RAF	Stafford	Staffordshire
Swynnerton: Army Training Area	Swynnerton	Staffordshire
Stoke-on-Trent: AFCO	Stoke-on-Trent	Stoke-on-Trent
Chetwynd: RAF Airfield	Near Newport	Telford and Wrekin
Donnington: Army Depot	Donnington	Telford and Wrekin
Donnington: DE Housing	Donnington	Telford and Wrekin
Telford: Defence Logistic Organisation	Telford	Telford and Wrekin
Wrockwardine: Housing	Wrockwardine	Telford and Wrekin
Wolverhampton: TAVRA Centre	Wolverhampton	Walsall
Bramcote: DE Housing	Bramcote	Warwickshire
Bramcote: Gamecock Barracks	Bramcote	Warwickshire
Church Lawford: Weather Station	Church Lawford	Warwickshire
Coleshill: Weather Station	Coleshill	Warwickshire

Establishment	Location	County/district
Ilmington: Army Radio Station	Ilmington	Warwickshire
Kineton: Defence Munition Centre	Kineton	Warwickshire
Kineton: DE Housing	Kineton	Warwickshire
Kingsbury: Army Rifle Range	Kingsbury	Warwickshire
Rugby: RAF Radio Station	Rugby	Warwickshire
Warwick: Army Museum	Warwick	Warwickshire
Long Marston: Army Camp and Depot	Long Marston	Warwickshire/Worcestershire
Wolverhampton: Army CIO	Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton: TAVRA Centre	Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton
Droitwich: DE Housing	Droitwich	Worcestershire
Droitwich: Government Offices	Droitwich	Worcestershire
Kidderminster: TAVRA Centre	Kidderminster	Worcestershire
Lower Wick: DE Housing	Near Worcester	Worcestershire
Malvern: (North and South Site)	Malvern	Worcestershire
Malvern: DE Housing	Malvern	Worcestershire
Powick: Monitoring Post	Powick	Worcestershire
Romsley: Army Radio Station	Romsley	Worcestershire
Rubery: TAVRA Centre	Rubery	Worcestershire
Tyddesley Wood: Army Rifle Range	Near Pershore	Worcestershire
Worcester: Army Museum	Worcester	Worcestershire
Worcester: Army Regimental HQ	Worcester	Worcestershire
Worcester: RN and Army CIO	Worcester	Worcestershire

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 29 June 2004

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Mr. Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome was of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 21–22 June; what the Government's stance was on the issues discussed, including its voting record; and if she will make a statement. [181027]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I represented the United Kingdom at a meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 21 June. The Scottish Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs was also present.

The Council held a public debate following the Commission's presentation of an Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming. We joined other Ministers in welcoming the Plan while stressing that expansion of the organic sector would have to be driven by consumer demand. The UK would play its part in further discussion but would want to ensure that requirements laid on the organic sector were economically realistic.

The Commission updated the Council on continuing WTO negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda and on its negotiations for a trade agreement with the Mercosur countries. We endorsed the efforts of the Commission to work for progress on both fronts and, on the WTO, emphasised the value of securing progress before the summer break. I re-iterated the benefits that a Doha deal could bring to the world economy and especially to developing countries.

The German Minister presented a memorandum to the Council on renewable resources, following a conference held last month in Bonn, which the Secretary of State had attended. Delegations welcomed the German paper, noting the growing importance of renewables. The Commission said it would submit a biomass plan by the end of 2005.

The Council had a brief exchange of views on the Commission's report on the operation of the beef labelling regulations. There was general agreement that the regulations had done much to support consumer confidence in beef and that major changes are not needed. Further technical discussion will take place at official level.

The Commission presented a paper setting out proposals for promoting more environmentally friendly fishing methods and a timetable for introducing new measures. This was the product of previous discussions between member states. The proposals had received wide support, including from the UK. We will continue to seek technical solutions and to support research directed at methods which respect the environment and contribute to a sustainable fishing industry.

The Council agreed the ceilings for the maximum fishing effort of member states in waters to the west of Britain (principally ICES Areas VI and VII). This was the final element of the arrangements agreed by the Council in October 2003, which are based on an up-dated reference period of 1998–2002 reflecting actual fishing effort over that period. We were pleased that the final text provided for consistency of approach and transparency in the calculations.

The Commission sought initial views on proposals for the establishment of a Community Fisheries Control Agency. There was general agreement that the concept was commendable if it improved consistency of enforcement. We indicated that we would be pleased to participate in discussions about the detail and registered that we believed that the Agency should complement rather than substitute the enforcement responsibilities of member states.

The Commission reported on continuing negotiations with trading partners over the rice tariff and with Russia on its requirements for certificates covering animal and animal product imports.

Cetacean By-catches

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will ensure that the UK's response to the European Commission's Cetacean Bycatch strategy proposes stricter measures than the EU proposals. [179459]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* The European Commission has not published a Cetacean Bycatch strategy.

I am currently considering the implementation of the UK Small Cetacean Bycatch response strategy in the light of the recently adopted Council Regulation and whether further, stricter, measures are necessary.

Dairy Cows

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the average lactations of dairy cows during their productive lifetime for each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [179972]

Alun Michael: Defra has made no estimate of the average lactations of dairy cows during their productive lifetime. However, according to data provided to the Milk Development Council by National Milk Records (who cover approximately 50 per cent. of the national herd) on average dairy cows have three lactations, each of which lasts for an average of 312 days.

Fish Farms

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to minimise pollution from fish farms. [179883]

Mr. Bradshaw: Risks of pollution from aquaculture are being addressed on a number of fronts through initiatives such as the Marine Stewardship report "Safeguarding our Seas" and the Scottish Executive's long-term strategic framework for Scottish Aquaculture.

The Government's efforts focus on scientific research on the carrying capacity of aquaculture waters (and the possible relocation of sites where this is exceeded and relocation is practicable), the development of cost-effective ways of reducing output of polluting effluent, and research to determine parameters for the optimal management of stocking density of farmed salmon and trout.

The Environment Agency has measures in place to regulate the use of water and limit the discharge of chemicals from fish farms in England and Wales.

Flora and Fauna Extinctions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 440W, to the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), on flora and fauna extinctions, if she will list the species of plants and animals believed to have become extinct within the last 25 years. [179163]

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her answer of 9 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 440W, on flora and fauna extinctions, if she will list the species that have become extinct. [179174]

Mr. Bradshaw: From the available information the following lists have been compiled of species lost since 1979:

Vascular Plants (as given in the Vascular Plants Red Data Book 1999)

Square brackets around the year of last record (column 2) denote that the species has since been reintroduced.

Species	*Year of last record in the wild in GB*	*Habitat*	*Comments*
Agrostemma githago	[1]1970s	Arable	Lost through agricultural intensification; now only casual, or deliberately planted
Crepis foetida	[1980]	Coastal habitats	Reintroduced to Dungeness
Galeopsis segetum	[1]1980s	Arable	Now perhaps only a rare casual
Neotinea maculata	[1]1986	Dune/heath	Isle of Man only, but now perhaps extinct
Otanthus maritimus	[1]1970s	Dunes, shingle	Last known in GB in Cornwall and Sussex; reason for loss of this predominantly Mediterranean species perhaps climate change

[1] Exact year not known.

Birds

The Red-backed Shrike *Lanius colluho* is the only bird species that can be considered to have gone extinct from the UK in the last 25 years. It was a regular breeder up until about 20 years ago. Since then it has continued to visit the UK—but without breeding success. The reasons for it's decline are not clear—both habitat loss (it prefers open meadow habitats) and climate change have been suggested.

Mammals

Mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis* is believed to be extinct. It was last recorded in 1991, although a vagrant was recorded in 2002.

Amphibians

Pool frog, *Rana lessonae* is believed to be extinct. The last known male (ex Norfolk) died in captivity in 1999—attempts to mate this individual with females from Sweden failed.

Fish

Burbot *Lota lota* is believed to be extinct. It was last recorded in 1972 from the Great Ouse system, and was probably lost due to habitat change and pollution.

Dates of "extinction" for well-studied invertebrates in Britain

The dates that these species were last seen in Britain are given in the table. In some cases these are approximate, due to lack of precise data.

Species name	*Binomial*	*Approximate last date*
Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)		
Butterflies		
Large Blue	*Maculinea arion*	1979
Moths		
Viper's Bugloss	*Hadena irregularis*	1977
Cudweed shark	*Cucullia gnaphalii ssp. occidentalis Boursin*	1979
Essex Emerald	*Thetida smaragdaria*	1991 —extinct in the wild
Anemone		
Ivell's sea anemone	*Edwardsia ivelli*	Possibly 1983

Foot and Mouth

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the decision was made to consider vaccination in the event of a future outbreak of foot and mouth disease; and for what reason the decision was taken. [180307]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the 2001 outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), an independent inquiry by the Royal Society recommended that "emergency vaccination should now be considered as part of the control strategy from the start of any outbreak of FMD". The Government accepted this recommendation and has since been working to ensure emergency vaccination is a fully viable disease control strategy in the event of a future outbreak.

GM Crops

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to commission further independent testing of GM crops. [179509]

Mr. Morley: The Government are committed to continuing their funding of research to underpin risk assessment of genetically modified organisms, and we will commission individual research projects as necessary. Details of current and planned projects are published on the Defra website. However, it is for those developing GM crop plants to provide sufficient evidence of the safety of individual GM events as part of the dossier supporting an application for consent to market a GM crop.

The devolved Administrations have responsibility for tests and trials of GM crops carried out in Scotland and Wales.

Pest Control

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on her policy on allowing general licences to shoot pests; and what plans she has to amend this in connection with wild birds. [179717]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 June 2004]:* Within Great Britain, all wild birds are protected under section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which generally prohibits the killing, injuring or taking of any wild bird. However, section 16 of the Act sets out the categories under which the Department can issue derogation licences in order to control certain necessary conduct, which would otherwise be prohibited.

Defra is conducting a pre-consultation exercise on the general licences that allow the killing or taking of certain birds. It is important that our licences remain robust; fit for purpose, and accord with the "EC Wild Birds Directive"[1].

We believe that the most effective method of licensing in certain circumstances is via general licences. These licences allow persons wishing to undertake action to do so immediately where there is no other satisfactory alternative and where action is inperative. The consultation paper can be viewed at the Defra website www.defra.gov.uk . The consultation period is due to end on the 14 July, after which the licences will be reviewed taking into account the consultation responses.

[1] Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

Rod Licences

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rod licences were granted, broken down by age category, in each of the last 10 years. [180025]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table sets out the total numbers of angling rod licences issued in England and Wales over the last 10 years, giving the breakdown by age groups for each year since 1999–2000. This breakdown is not available for years prior to 1999–2000.

	12–16	*17–24*	*25–34*	*35–44*	*45–54*	*55–64*	*65+*	*Total*
1994–95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,003,381
1995–96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000,646
1996–97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,171,914
1997–98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,196,417
1998–99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,143,883
1999–2000	9,079	180,539	175,406	240,815	213,837	159,657	140,130	1,119,463
2000–01	26,661	160,263	170,783	231,911	205,834	153,561	129,731	1,078,744
2001–02	65,667	158,071	186,824	243,236	209,117	155,211	126,527	1,144,653
2002–03	101,456	144,645	194,140	252,434	213,789	158,395	123,556	1,188,415
2003–04	131,130	140,701	208,202	266,110	223,179	167,398	124,395	1,261,115

HEALTH

Brain Tumours

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to increase the geographical spread of facilities to treat brain tumour patients; [181317]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to increase the availability of specialised professional support for brain tumour patients. [181361]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has commissioned the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop service guidance on tumours of the brain and central nervous system for use in the national health service in England and Wales. The guidance will address services for the diagnosis, staging and treatment, follow up, rehabilitation and specific elements of supportive and palliative care that meet the particular needs of patients with brain and central nervous system tumours and of their families and carers. The guidance will support the planning, organisation and commissioning of services to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients. The guidance will specifically address the role of multi-disciplinary teams in the patient pathway. NICE expects to publish the guidance in August 2005.

It is for local health communities to decide how best to provide services for their local populations.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* emotional, *(b)* practical and *(c)* financial support is provided by the Government for (i) those suffering from brain tumours and (ii) family carers of brain tumour patients. [181362]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Support for patients with cancer—of whatever type—and their carers is provided through the relevant services in the national health

service and through the increased funding that the Government has invested in the service, including that committed in the NHS cancer plan.

The Department has commissioned the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop service guidance on tumours of the brain and central nervous system for use in the NHS in England and Wales. The guidance will address services for the diagnosis, staging and treatment, follow up, rehabilitation, specific elements of supportive and palliative care that meet the particular needs of patients with brain and central nervous system tumours and of their families and carers and communication and information resources. NICE expect to publish the guidance in August 2005.

Additionally, the recently published guidance from NICE on improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer will benefit all patients with cancer, including those with brain tumours.

Benefits for patients with cancer are provided through the Department for Work and Pensions. The Department goes to considerable lengths to publicise available benefits and is engaged in a modernisation programme to improve delivery of benefits, such as disability living allowance and attendance allowance, including the introduction of shorter and more accessible claim forms.

The Department makes grants to voluntary organisations to provide information and support to carers. Carers are entitled to an assessment to determine their needs as carers and eligibility for support including short-term breaks. To support carers financially, the carers allowance was introduced in 2001.

Cannabis

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action has been taken on the implications of cannabis smoking for respiratory health since the publication of the British Lung Foundation report, A Smoking Gun. [179327]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The harms caused by cannabis smoking are kept under expert review. Since the British Lung Foundation report the Department has commissioned and published an update of "Dangerousness of Drugs" (2003), an independent expert review of the harms caused by drugs of misuse, which addresses the risks associated with smoking. In addition, the FRANK campaign and website, "talktofrank", have raised awareness of these risks, increasing knowledge among young people of the illegality of cannabis use and the fact that it is a harmful substance.

The Department has also set up an expert working group made up of members of the scientific committee on tobacco and health and the advisory council on the misuse of drugs to consider the issues of cannabis and tobacco smoking, and has commissioned research into the smoke produced by these substances, on the advice of this group, with results due later this year.

Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of consultants who had expressed an interest in moving onto the new consultants contract had *(a)* moved onto the new contract by 30 April and *(b)* received a final job plan offer. [178897]

Mr. Hutton: Data collected from strategic health authorities (SHAs) shows that, of those consultants who had given a formal commitment to the new contract by 31 October 2003, 19 per cent. had agreed a job plan and signed up to the new contract and a further 40 per cent. had received final job plan offers by 30 April 2004.

The most recent data, supplied at 4 June by SHAs, suggests that 79 per cent. of consultants who expressed an interest in the contract have had final job plan offers, including 35 per cent. who have now accepted the contract.

Contraceptive Implants

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has carried out into the possible side-effects of use of contraceptive implants by teenage girls. [178350]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The contraceptive implant currently available in the United Kingdom is Implanon, a progestagen-only implant that provides contraception for a period of three years. Implanon is a prescription-only medicine which may be recommended for women of any age but which is most commonly used by older women.

Studies carried out by the marketing authorisation holder for Implanon were evaluated at the time of licensing and the product information states that safety and efficacy has been established in women between the ages of 18 and 40 years. The limited available data do not suggest that the safety profile of Implanon is different in women under the age of 18 years. However, no formal research has been carried out and the judgement on the balance of risks and benefits in women under 18 is the responsibility of the prescribing physician.

Health care professionals are encouraged to discuss the potential side effects with everyone who seeks treatment. In addition, prescribers are expected to satisfy themselves that all women understand the risks and benefits of using Implanon and that it is in their best interests to receive the treatment.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will continue to monitor the safety of Implanon and will review any potential safety issues in the light of any new evidence which may emerge.

Dispensing Opticians

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to provide support for dispensing opticians required to undertake continuing education; [179505]

(2) what plans he has officially to recognise dispensing opticians as healthcare professionals. [179507]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Dispensing opticians are recognised as health care professionals and are regulated under the Opticians Act.

Currently there is no provision for financial support towards continuing education and training for dispensing opticians as they do not contract with the national health service to provide general ophthalmic services and therefore fall outside the NHS arrangements for ophthalmic services.

The Department is due shortly to begin a review of the general ophthalmic services and the position of dispensing opticians will be considered as part of that review.

Emergency Planning

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 24 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1378W, on emergency planning, when the well-developed major incident plans were last monitored by the Department; what form the tests took; and what steps he will take to satisfy himself that the major incident plans will work in a serious emergency, with particular reference to a terrorist attack. [179472]

Mr. Hutton: Each strategic health authority (SHA) in England is responsible for the routine and regular assessment of the emergency preparedness plans of national health service organisations in its area. Health organisations are themselves required to conduct internal tests and reviews and to include a statement of preparedness in their annual reports.

In addition to routine feedback, the Department conducted specific national assessments of emergency preparedness via the SHAs in January 2003 and again at the end of that year as part of a wider regional capabilities mapping exercise.

Each NHS organisation can call upon specialist advice and support from the Health Protection Agency and is expected take part in external multi agency exercises and report results to its SHA. Although based on an all-hazards approach, national guidance requires that emergency preparedness plans make specific provision for responding to terrorist threats.

NHS Agencies

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the NHS agencies whose future he is reviewing; and what *(a)* the date of the agency's establishment and *(b)* total number of staff is in each case. [176954]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 7 June 2004]:* The data for the national health service bodies concerned is shown in the table.

Name of body	*Date established*	*Number of staff*[1]
Commission for Social Care Inspection	1 April 2004	2,622
Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection (The Health-care Commission)	1 April 2004	456
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	1 January 2003	123
Counter Fraud and Security Management Service	1 January 2003	284
Council for the Regulation of Health Care Professionals	1 April 2003	10
Dental Practice Board	1948	333
Dental Vocational Training Authority	1 October 1993	2.5
Family Health Services Appeal Authority	1 April 1995	12
General Social Care Council	1 October 2001	130
Health Development Agency	1 January 2000	122.6
Health Protection Agency	1 April 2003	2,628
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	1 August 1991	105
Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts	5 January 2004	37
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	1 April 2003	806
Mental Health Act Commission	1983	38
NHS Appointments Commission	1 April 2001	39
NHS Direct	1 April 2004	3,000
NHS Estates	1 April 1991	180.8
NHS Logistics	1 April 2000	1,452
NHS Information Authority	1 April 1999	1,034
NHS Litigation Authority	20 November 1995	184.4
NHS Pensions Agency	20 November 1992	369
NHS Professionals	1 January 2004	671
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	1 January 2000	336
NHSU	1 December 2003	270
National Biological Standards Board	1976	305
National Blood Authority	1993	5,378
National Institute for Clinical Excellence	1 April 1999	92
National Clinical Assessment Authority	1 April 2001	87.7
National Patient Safety Agency	2 July 2001	169.2
National Radiological Protection Board	1 October 1970	338
National Treatment Agency for Drugs	1 April 2001	84
Postgraduate Medical Education Training Board	1 October 2003	27
Prescription Pricing Authority	1977	2,260
Public Health Laboratory Service	[2]1977	62.6
UK Transplant	1 July 2000	132

[1] Staff figures are given in whole-time equivalents as at 1 April 2004.

[2] The Public Health Laboratory Service existed in an earlier form from the late 1940s.

Note:

Bodies which have been abolished since the Department's review of its arm's length bodies was announced are not shown.

NHS Budgets

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was for *(a)* the NHS in England and *(b)* NHS maternity services in England in each year since 1992. [180329]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department records historic data on expenditure and not on annual budgets. It is this data that is shown in the tables.

National health service total expenditure for England

£ billion

	Net NHS expenditure (Outturn)
Cash[1]	
1991–92	25.4
1992–93	28.0
1993–94	28.9
1994–95	30.6
1995–96	32.0
1996–97	33.0
1997–98	34.7
1998–99	36.6
1999–2000	39.9
RB Stage 1[2]	
1999–2000	40.2
2000–01	43.9
2001–02	49.0
2002–03	54.0

[1] Expenditure pre 1999–2000 is on a cash basis.
[2] Expenditure figures from 1999–2000 to 2002–03 are on a stage 1 resource budgeting basis (and consistent with figures to be published in table 3.4a of Departmental Report 2004).
Note:
Figures are not comparable over the whole period.

Hospital and community health services expenditure on maternity services—England, 1991–92 to 2002–03

	£
1991–92	977,208,570
1992–93	1,011,857,187
1993–94	1,007,065,252
1994–95	1,006,545,942
1995–96	1,012,530,343
1996–97	1,048,650,541
1997–98	1,053,832,887
1998–99	1,089,179,652
1999–2000	1,153,864,597
2000–01	1,192,362,905
2001–02	1,270,961,420
2002–03	1,383,835,950

Sources:
1. Annual financial returns of district and regional health authorities and the special health authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals, 1991–92 to 1995–96.
2. Annual financial returns of NHS trusts, 1991–92 to 2002–03.
3. Annual financial returns of primary care trusts, 2000–01 to 2002–03.

NHS Staff (Manchester, Central)

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* therapists and *(b)* scientists were located in Manchester, Central in each year since 1997. [179213]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is shown in the table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff in the Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority[1] (SHA) and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Greater Manchester SHA[1]	5,701	5,796	5,956	6,248	6,589	7,029	7,170
Of which:							
Manchester Health Authority	2,040	2,045	2,096	2,160	2,432	n/a	n/a
Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	673	668	705	730	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	187	189	191	211	n/a	n/a	n/a
Central Manchester Primary Care Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	116	152	152
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	923	1,045	1,115

n/a = not applicable.
[1] Figures for Greater Manchester SHA are based on the 2002 organisational structure.
Source:
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the merging of management organisations of primary care trusts is under consideration; and what guidelines NHS strategic health authorities are required to follow with regard to *(a)* preparing and presenting a business case, *(b)* preparing and presenting a statement of quantifiable benefits, *(c)* analysing human and financial resources, *(d)* undertaking formal public consultations and *(e)* tailoring structural changes to avoid the need for a statutory instrument. [180377]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* There are currently no plans to issue departmental guidelines for the merging of management resources within primary care trusts (PCTs). If it makes sense locally to share management resources across PCTs, this is a decision for the local strategic health authority in discussion with its PCTs.

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on proposals to merge the management organisations of adjacent primary care trusts that would result in organisations responsible for a population of more than 500,000. [180378]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* "The New NHS", published in 1997, set out a vision for the national health service and for primary care trusts (PCTs) as a key driver to improve health and make the NHS modern and dependable.

The function of PCTs is to meet local health care needs by making local decisions that respond to the community. This presents enormous opportunity to do things differently, which may include the sharing of management resources. There is currently no national policy on this. However, the overriding principle is that any sharing of management resources must continue to meet the needs of the local people living within the community.

Sexual Health

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether sexual health will be included in the 2005 to 2008 planning and priorities framework. [180403]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The 2005–08 planning and priorities framework is due to be published in the summer.

University College Hospital (Consultative Board)

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has on the level of public participation in elections to the Consultative Board of University College Hospital since the announcement that it has become a foundation hospital. [180334]

Mr. Hutton: The independent regulator of national health service foundation trusts has placed University College London Hospitals NHS Trust in the list of wave 1 applications for 1 July authorisation. The trust has informed the Department that 32 per cent. of the 15,100 public and patient members participated in the elections earlier this year for the 17 public/patients' positions on the trust's members' council (board of governors). The trust's membership is increasing and has risen to over 23,000.

Waiting Lists

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on hospital waiting lists in *(a)* Hull and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire. [181588]

Miss Melanie Johnson: As at 31 March 2004, 8,682 patients were waiting for elective inpatient admission at the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust. The figure for 31 August 2003 was 10,349.

Source:
Department of Health.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to lay the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report for 2003–04 before Parliament. [181700]

The Prime Minister: I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for their valuable work and their latest annual report. Following consultation with the Intelligence and Security Committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the discharge of the function and operation of the intelligence and security agencies, I have laid the report before the House today. Copies will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government will respond formally to the report shortly.

United States

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) for what reason the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not been allocated a place on the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Relations with the USA; [181275]

(2) for what reasons it was deemed necessary to establish the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Relations with the USA; and on what date it was established; [181276]

(3) whether the Terms of Reference of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Relations with the USA allow representatives of *(a)* the US Administration and *(b)* the US security services to attend; [181277]

(4) for what reason he has decided not to allocate himself a place on the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Relations with the USA. [181279]

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Prime Minister what the terms of reference are of the DOP (UK/US) ministerial sub-committee on relations with the United States of America; and what its objectives are. [180947]

The Prime Minister: On 27 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1731W, I announced the current list of Cabinet Committees and sub-committees, their membership and terms of reference including the Ministerial Sub-Committee on relations with the United States of America. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The list is also available on the Cabinet Office website at www.cabinet-office.gov.uk.

Other Ministers and officials can be invited to attend the Ministerial Sub-Committee on relations with the United States of America when necessary. This does not include members of the US Administration or US security services.

ADVOCATE-GENERAL

Devolution

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Advocate-General what devolution issues have been raised with her since 25 May. [180246]

The Advocate-General for Scotland: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, Maryhill (Ann McKechin).

SCOTLAND

Student Finance

7. **Mr. Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had regarding funding arrangements for students from Scotland who wish to study at higher education institutions in England. [180235]

Mr. Darling: I have had a number of discussions and the Scottish Executive announced its proposals on higher education funding last week.

Power Stations

10. **Anne Picking:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will discuss with the Minister for Energy the introduction of location charging to Scottish power stations. [180239]

Mrs. McGuire: Scotland Office and DTI Ministers have had a number of discussions on the Energy Bill and I am aware of the concerns raised over the introduction of location charging in Scotland. The increase in transmission charges needs to be seen in the context of a package of reforms that make up BETTA. Any increase must be seen alongside the removal of charges for access to the England and Wales market and for use of the Interconnector.

Small Businesses (Taxation)

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent representations he has received from Scottish small business organisations about the tax treatment of dividends. [180241]

Mrs. McGuire: The Scotland Office maintains contact with all business representative organisations in Scotland at both official and ministerial level and received a copy of the Federation of Small Businesses Scottish survey results published at the beginning of this month. I note this makes no mention of the tax treatment of dividends. The Government and the Scottish Executive are committed to creating an environment in which businesses small and large can flourish.

Housing Supply

14. **Mr. Tynan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive regarding the Barker Review. [180243]

Mr. Darling: I have had no discussions with the Scottish Executive regarding the Barker Review. The Scottish Executive are conducting a review of affordable housing in Scotland, considering many of the issues and proposals raised by the Barker Review.

Inverclyde (Regeneration)

David Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next plans to visit Inverclyde to discuss regeneration. [180238]

Mr. Darling: I have no plans at present to do so.

Manufacturing Industry

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on manufacturing industry in Scotland. [180240]

Mr. Darling: The Government fully recognise the substantial role that manufacturing continues to play in Scotland's economy.

We have put in place a wide range of measures to support the sector such as R and D tax credits and measures to support the commercialisation of academic research. These, along with the macroeconomic stability delivered by this Government and the devolved measures implemented by the Scottish Executive, mean that manufacturing in Scotland is well placed to benefit from the improved global trading conditions.

Road Fuel Taxation

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has held with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on the effect of fuel duty levels on rural Scotland. [180236]

Mr. Darling: I have regular meetings with my right hon. Friend and with Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the recent publication of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. [180242]

Mrs. McGuire: We are committed to tackling poverty and deprivation and welcome the publication of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation which will be a useful tool in the further development of polices to tackle deprivation.

Seamounts

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) of 26 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1621W, on seamounts, what the involvement of the Scotland Office has been in the work to identify and agree management measures for the seamounts. [180402]

Mrs. McGuire: The United Kingdom's interest in the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) is co-ordinated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which consults other departments of Government and the devolved administrations as appropriate.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Electronic Voting

35. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will introduce electronic voting in the lobbies of the House. [180774]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend has no plans to propose the introduction of electronic voting. However, he is strongly in favour of using information technology where it can make the House operate more effectively, and he would be interested to know Members' views on the potential merits of electronic voting in the Lobby.

Awareness of Parliament

Ann Winterton: To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to encourage awareness of the work of Parliament among school children. [180768]

Mr. Hain: Following the publication of the Modernisation Committee's report on Connecting with the Public, I plan to discuss with the Speaker and with my colleagues on the House of Commission how best to address the Committee's recommendations on connecting with young people.

Sitting Hours

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations he has received on the House's sitting hours. [180771]

Mr. Hain: I have so far received 83 responses to the letter I sent all Members on 8 January asking for views on our sitting hours. In addition, I have spoken to many Members about this matter.

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Leader of the House what consideration he is giving to a revision of the House's sitting hours. [180773]

Mr. Woolas: The Modernisation Committee has now embarked on its inquiry into the sitting hours of the House. My right hon. Friend (the Leader of the House) intends to write to all Members of the House outlining the options that are currently available and seeking further views, building on the evidence gathered by the Procedure Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Organic and UK Produce

Norman Baker: To ask the Chairman of the Catering Committee what percentage of *(a)* fruit and *(b)* vegetables available for sale within the House are (i) organic and (ii) sourced within the UK. [179923]

Mr. Dennis Turner: The Refreshment Department uses organic produce when it represents value for money, is of an appropriate quality and can be delivered in sufficient quantities. However, it is generally a premium product and as such is not used as a matter of course. The organic nature of produce is recorded only if it is purchased specifically for a promotion of organic food and so no figures are available on the percentage of organic produce for sale in the House.

By law, the Refreshment Department cannot discriminate in favour of or against the produce of any EU member state. It does not, therefore, maintain a record of the country of origin of the fruit and vegetables purchased for sale in Refreshment Department facilities.

TREASURY

Illegal Cigarettes (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated value was of illegal cigarettes seized in Northern Ireland in 2003. [180978]

John Healey: The location of a seizure does not necessarily indicate the illicit market for which those goods are bound. Specifically in Northern Ireland in 2002–03, Customs seized 31.5 million cigarettes. At average retail prices these would have been liable to £5.6 million in tobacco revenue (based on excise duty and VAT).

Customs and Excise

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the official title is of the unit in Customs and Excise that deals with human intelligence policy; where this unit is based; how many people the unit employs; and what its operating costs are in 2004–05. [180502]

John Healey: Responsibility for policy issues relating to human intelligence in HM Customs and Excise rests with the National Source Unit. The National Source Unit is based in London and is part of the Law Enforcement directorate of HM Customs and Excise. It would not be appropriate to give details of the numbers and costs of staff engaged at specific locations, as provided for under Exemptions 4 and 7 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

European Constitution

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the financial impact of Article III-157(3) of the proposed European Constitution; and what representations he has received about its impact. [181108]

Dawn Primarolo: Article III-157(3) of the proposed Constitutional Treaty requires that any proposal in the field of energy that is primarily fiscal in nature must be agreed by unanimity in the Council. This is consistent with the Government's commitment to ensure that unanimity is retained for tax matters decided at the EU level, as set out in the White Paper on the Intergovernmental Conference.

The financial impact of any measures adopted under Article 157(3) would depend upon their nature and content.

The Chancellor has not received any representations about the impact of this provision.

Pension Contributions (Tax Relief)

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of tax relief on pension contributions provided in Scotland in the financial year 2002–03 broken down by *(a)* higher rate taxpayers, *(b)* basic rate taxpayers and *(c)* non-taxpayers. [181280]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimates are available.

Pensioners

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many state retirement taxpayers of pension age reside in *(a)* the parliamentary constituency of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders and *(c)* Scotland. [180959]

Dawn Primarolo: The requested information is given in the following table.

State retirement pension age taxpayers in 2001–02

	Number
(a) Parliamentary constituency of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	—
(b) The Scottish Borders	11,000
(c) Scotland	390,000

In the Survey of Personal Incomes, the sample size of pensioners living in the Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency is relatively small compared to other constituencies so a reliable estimate cannot be given. Estimates for the Scottish Borders and Scotland are based on the 2001–02 Survey of Personal Incomes.

All estimates should be treated with caution because of sampling variation.

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the existing law governing National Insurance contributions by working pensioners; and if he will make a statement. [181037]

Dawn Primarolo: Working pensioners do not pay National Insurance contributions. The Government keep under review legislation governing National Insurance contributions.

Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters have been sent to people to warn that they may need to pay higher National Insurance contributions to receive a full state pension; how many people have made payments as a result; and what the value is of payments received so far. [180919]

Dawn Primarolo: On 27 October 2003 the Inland Revenue started writing to people with deficient years in their National Insurance records who would have received a deficiency notice for the years since they were suspended in 1998. Not all of these people need to pay extra to ensure a full state pension. This exercise is expected to finish by the end of September this year. As of 20 June 2004, almost 6 million letters had been issued. Nearly 90,000 people have made voluntary payments, paying a total of £16.5 million.

The Inland Revenue plans to resume the annual exercise of sending deficiency notices by the end of the year.

Petroleum Products (Duty)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the duty imposed on petroleum products *(a)* is and *(b)* was in 1997. [179331]

John Healey: For duty rates imposed on petroleum products in 1997, I refer the hon. Member to the Budget 1997 Press Notice C&E 3 available on the Treasury's website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk. Current duty rates are contained in Budget Notice 26/04, available on the Customs and Excise website at www.hmce.gov.uk. Copies of these documents are available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the Royal Automobile Club regarding the level of duty on road fuels. [180611]

John Healey: I am not aware of any representations having been received from the RAC on this matter.

STEPS Agreement

Denzil Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism is in place to monitor whether the estimated total savings from the STEPS agreement is being periodically met. [180738]

Dawn Primarolo: Over 80 per cent. of the annual payments made by the Departments to Mapeley relate to Facility Prices on properties that were transferred to Mapeley at the start of the contract. These costs were subject to careful scrutiny as part of the bidding evaluation process, they are fixed—being subject only to indexation—and represent very good value for money. Any additional properties, or contract variations (i.e. the remaining 20 per cent.) which the Departments pay for, are subject to benchmarking to ensure that they also represent demonstrable and auditable value for money.

Warm Front Budget

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account his Department took of the advice of the Government's Fuel Poverty Advisory Group in assessing the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs settlement under the Comprehensive Spending Review; and what changes will be made in the warm front budget over the next three years. [181213]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers take a keen interest in the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy and are committed to reaching our targets in this area. The advice of the Government's Fuel Poverty Advisory Group was therefore welcomed as a valuable contribution to the debate. Decisions on future programmes and Government spending to meet these targets are currently being taken in the context of the spending review.

DEFENCE

Armoured Vehicle Training System

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the change in the timing of the *(a)* decision and *(b)* announcement of the preferred bidder for the private finance initiative contract for the Armoured Vehicle Training System at Bovington and Lulworth in Dorset; and when he expects to make an announcement on the preferred bidder. [180376]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* The Armoured Vehicles Training Service is a significant PFI programme over 30 years. Extended evaluation of the very close bids has delayed an announcement that the Department had hoped to make by the end of May.

A decision is expected soon, with an announcement thereafter.

Commercial Exploitation Levy

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the receipts from the commercial exploitation levy on defence exports have been in the past three years. [180144]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 10 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 589W.

Commonwealth War Graves

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries have Commonwealth war graves; how many graves are located in each; and how often they are inspected. [180697]

Mr. Caplin: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) maintains over 1,179,000 war graves at 23,203 burial sites in 148 countries around the world. It also commemorates a further 760,193 Commonwealth war dead on memorials to the missing, for whom there is no known grave.

The CWGC inspect their graves and cemeteries on a regular basis, but the inspection cycle varies from country to country. In the United Kingdom, where the care of the majority of war graves in civil cemeteries and churchyards is entrusted to local authorities and contractors, inspections are made every six months; however in churchyards and cemeteries that contain very few war graves, there is a three-year cycle. In more distant locations (e.g. South America), where inspections by CWGC staff may be less frequent, reports are obtained from third parties (e.g. consular staff).

Further detailed information related to the countries which have Commonwealth war graves and how many graves are located in each cemetery is available from the CWGC website at: www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search

Defence Assistance Fund

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial support has been given to defence sales through the Defence Assistance Fund over the last three years. [180143]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 637–38W.

Defence Bodies

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average number of full-time equivalent *(a)* industrial and *(b)* non-industrial civilians employed in the (i) 1 Group, (ii) 2 Group, (iii) 3 Group, and (iv) Deputy Commander-in-Chief management group was in financial years (A) 2000–01 and (B) 2001–02; [176173]

(2) what the average number of full-time equivalent *(a)* industrial and *(b)* non-industrial civilians employed in the (i) 1 (UK) Armoured Division, (ii) 2nd Division, (iii) 3rd Division, (iv) 4th Division, (v) 5th Division, (vi) Command HQ, (vii) Scotland, (viii) Capital Works and (ix) UK Support Command (Germany) management group was in financial year 1999–2000. [176185]

Mr. Caplin: The available information on numbers of military and civilian personnel analysed by budgetary grouping and by Defence Agency is contained in tables 2.2, 2.3 and 2.7 of United Kingdom Defence Statistics 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Further details could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the Defence Export Services Organisation's income related to *(a)* fees charged to defence companies and *(b)* sales of surplus equipment in the last three years. [180140]

Mr. Ingram: The income of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) that relates to fees charged to defence companies was less than 5 per cent. in each of the last three years.

Within DESO, the Disposal Services Agency (DSA) has sole responsibility for the disposal by sale of all surplus MOD equipment. The bulk of the receipts from the sale of surplus equipment are paid to the Defence Logistics Organisation. A proportion is retained to fund the running costs of the DSA and this has been around 10 per cent. of DESO income over the last three years.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget for the Defence Export Services Organisation is for the financial years *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06. [180141]

Mr. Ingram: Provision of £14.426 million has been made for the net operating costs of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) for the current financial year.

The DESO budget for the financial year 2005–06 has not yet been finalised, and I am withholding a projection of these costs under exemption 2c of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The costs of DESO are more than offset by benefits to the Defence budget arising from defence exports. Savings to the defence budget come from spreading the fixed overhead costs of equipment over the longer production runs generated by exports, from the sale of surplus military equipment to overseas Governments, and from Commercial Exploitation Levy on exports of equipment developed using public money.

Departmental Property Overseas

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of his Department's houses overseas are empty; [180693]

(2) how many houses in barracks overseas have been renovated in the last five years; how many will be improved next year; and on which overseas camps they are located. [180694]

Mr. Caplin: The information required is taking time to collate. When it is available, I will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what talks have taken place with the Falkland Islands Government on the 25th anniversary of the war. [180698]

Mr. Caplin: We expect to discuss this important anniversary with the Falkland Islands Government in due course. I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 19 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1072W.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many drivers of military vehicles, by type, have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured (i) off-road and (ii) on the public highway in each of the past five years. [179478]

Mr. Caplin: In the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2003, there were 11 deaths involving drivers of military vehicles. Of these nine died on the public highway and two died off-road. In the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2003, there were 2,987 injuries involving drivers of military vehicles. Of these 2,746 were injured on the public highway and 241 were injured off-road.

A breakdown of these deaths and injuries by vehicle type and year is given at tables A and B.

Table A: Deaths in drivers of military vehicles: 1999 to 2003

	1999		2000		2001	
Vehicle Type	*Public road*	*Off road*	*Public road*	*Off road*	*Public road*	*Off road*
Totals	3	—	—	1	3	1
Car saloons	1	—	—	—	2	—
Truck utility	—	—	—	—	1	1
Motorcycle	—	—	—	1	—	—
Vans	1	—	—	—	—	—
4 tonne	1	—	—	—	—	—

	2002		2003		
	Public road	*Off road*	*Public road*	*Off road*	*Total*
Totals	2	—	1	—	11
Car saloons	—	—	1	—	4
Truck utility	2	—	—	—	4
Motorcycle	—	—	—	—	1
Vans	—	—	—	—	1
4 tonne	—	—	—	—	1

Table B: Injuries to drivers of military vehicles: 1999 to 2003

	1999		2000		2001	
	Public road	*Off road*	*Public road*	*Off road*	*Public road*	*Off road*
Total	345	34	364	50	645	56
Car saloons	127	2	114	9	251	10
Truck utility	115	11	122	7	162	27
4 tonne	29	—	18	13	71	4
Mini buses	16	—	20	3	45	—
Vans	13	—	16	—	33	1
Motorcycle	6	2	14	2	13	5
Tracked A vehicle	6	5	9	5	3	4
Medium mobility load carrier	6	—	3	2	9	—
Other cargo vehicles	2	—	5	1	11	—
Pinzgauer	3	2	12	4	1	—
Wheeled A vehicle	6	6	2	—	3	—
8 tonne	4	—	2	—	7	—
Ambulances	—	—	1	—	12	4
Plant vehicles	3	6	2	2	3	—
Fuel vehicle	—	—	6	2	8	—
Recovery vehicle	3	—	4	—	—	—
Motor coaches	1	—	3	—	2	—
14 tonne	4		—	—	3	—
Articulated vehicle	—	—	2	—	2	1
Fire Fighting vehicle	—	—	—	—	4	—
Special vehicle	—	—	5	—	—	—
Tank transporter	—	—	4	—	—	—
Misc. engineer vehicles	1	—	—	—	—	—
Truck utility heavy	—	—	—		2	—

	2002		2003		
	Public road	*Off road*	*Public road*	*Off road*	*Total*
Total	738	50	654	51	2,987
Car saloons	285	2	276	8	1,084
Truck utility	197	30	173	26	870
4 tonne	58	—	37	2	232
Mini buses	85	—	53	1	223
Vans	34	—	38	2	137
Motorcycle	9	3	6	5	65
Tracked A vehicle	5	5	4	—	46
Medium mobility load carrier	8	1	14	—	43
Other cargo vehicles	6	3	12	1	41
Pinzgauer	5	—	4	—	31
Wheeled A vehicle	8	—	5	—	30
8 tonne	7	1	6	2	29

	2002		2003		
	Public road	Off road	Public road	Off road	Total
Ambulances	4	1	4	—	26
Plant vehicles	2	4	3	—	25
Fuel vehicle	—	—	7	—	23
Recovery vehicle	7	—	1	—	15
Motor coaches	3	—	4	1	14
14 tonne	5	—	—	—	12
Articulated vehicle	5	—	—	—	10
Fire Fighting vehicle	—	—	3	3	10
Special vehicle	3	—	2	—	10
Tank transporter	2	—	—	—	6
Misc. engineer vehicles	—	—	2	—	3
Truck utility heavy	—	—	—	—	2

MOD Sites

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the licence ends for civilian use of Thorney Down waste site at DSTL Porton Down; and if he will make a statement about plans for its future use. [179481]

Mr. Caplin: The lease between MOD and Wiltshire county council for the use of the Thorny Down site is for a term of 50 years, from 25 December 1995 until 25 December 2045. Due to length of the lease, there are no immediate MOD plans for the future use of this site.

Overseas Hospitals

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's hospitals operate abroad; and in which countries they are located. [180695]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence currently operates two permanent hospitals overseas. These are the Princess Mary's Hospital in Cyprus, and the Royal Naval Hospital in Gibraltar.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* forces and *(b)* civilian staff work in his Department's hospitals abroad. [180696]

Mr. Caplin: The following numbers of personnel are currently employed at our two permanent hospitals overseas:

The Princess Mary's Hospital, Cyprus

Personnel	Number
Service	102
Civilian	83

The Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar

Personnel	Number
Service	46
Civilian	37

In addition, some support services in Cyprus are contracted out.

Service Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Bedford, *(b)* AWD and *(c)* Leyland-Daf trucks are operated by (i) the Army, (ii) the Royal Air Force and (iii) the Royal Navy; [180408]

(2) how many ambulances are operated in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy, broken down by make; [180409]

(3) how many Land Rovers are operated by *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy. [180410]

Mr. Ingram: The numbers of Bedford, Leyland-Daf trucks, ambulances and Land Rovers operated by the Department are shown in the following table. There are no all wheeled drive (AWD) tankers in service.

Vehicle type	RN	Army	RAF
Bedford 4 Tonne	41	5,002	344
Bedford 8 Tonne	0	1,460	11
Bedford 14 Tonne	0	900	0
Leyland-Daf Trucks	9	3,796	238
Ambulances operational	0	780	70
Ambulances non-operational	13	11	1
Land Rover operational	26	12,191	765
Land Rover non-operational[1]	179	148	393

[1] It should be noted that a small number of Land Rovers have also been purchased under local ad hoc arrangements and are subsequently not managed by the DLO. It would require disproportionate effort to determine exactly the numbers involved.

Tornado

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the programme for the development of Modular Defensive Aids Systems for the Tornado for the current and next two years. [179534]

Mr. Ingram: The results of the recent Assessment Phase for the Modular Defensive Aids System project are being evaluated. A decision on the next phase of the project is under consideration as part of the Department's normal planning process.

War Pensions (Tamworth)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pensioners within Tamworth constituency receive war pensions *(a)* through an order book, *(b)* through a Post Office card account and *(c)* paid directly into a bank or building society account. [176906]

Mr. Caplin: According to the Veterans Agency Computer System, as at 31 December 2003, there were 185 ongoing war disablement pensioners and 40 war widow(er)s with a recorded address in the parliamentary constituency of Tamworth.

The table shows the method of payment for these pensioners.

	Payment method			
	Automated credit transfer to:			
	Order book	Post Office Card Account	Bank or Building Society	Total
War Disablement Pensioners	20	10	155	185
War widow(er)s	10	[1]—	30	40

[1] Values above 0 but less than 5

Note:

Please note that all figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Devolution

23. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to provide a new system of arbitration of disputes between the Westminster Parliament and the devolved assemblies. [180758]

Mr. Lammy: There are no plans to provide a system for arbitration of disputes between the Westminster Parliament and the devolved legislatures. It is not for the Government to dictate how Parliament interacts with its devolved counterparts.

The mechanism to consider disputes between UK Government and the devolved administrations is the Joint Ministerial Committee as established in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Court House (Colchester)

24. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs when he expects that planning permission will be given for the new court house in Colchester. [180760]

Mr. Leslie: Outline planning permission is currently being sought for a new court in Colchester. We anticipate a decision by the planning authority in October 2004.

House of Lords

25. **Mr. McLoughlin:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to implement the Government's pledge to make the House of Lords more democratic. [180761]

Mr. Leslie: The Government are determined to proceed with further reform of the House of Lords. Proposals will be developed in the context of the Labour Party manifesto.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions the Department has had with Mr. Billy Bragg on using a secondary mandate as a way of electing part of the Second Chamber. [180765]

Mr. Leslie: Mr. Bragg approached the Department to draw his proposals to the Department's attention. He has had a number of meetings, including a meeting with Ministers to discuss them.

Camera Safety Partnerships

27. **Mr. Luff:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will make a statement on the role of magistrates courts committees in camera safety partnerships. [180763]

Mr. Leslie: Magistrates courts committees have three roles. First, to collect and account for money due for fixed penalty notices issued under the safety camera scheme. Second, endorsing driving licenses with penalty points where this is appropriate. Third, enforcing unpaid fixed penalties where they are registered as a fine.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180179]

Mr. Lammy: 13,000 DCA staff (90 per cent. out of a current total of 15,200) are already based in regional locations and/or are working in front-line customer facing roles in London and the south east. We plan to locate the regional assessment centre of the new Judicial Appointments Commission and the HQ of the new tribunals agency outside London and the south east. No decisions have yet been made regarding the potential location of these offices.

The Lyons report gives details of Departments' relocation plans, which are being taken forward and refined as part of the Spending Review. The Government will announce proposals for implementing and monitoring the dispersal plans in the review.

Legal Aid

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has for reducing the proportion of the legal aid budget expended on very high cost cases. [180756]

Mr. Lammy: The Legal Services Commission introduced a scheme for managing very high cost criminal cases in 2001 with the aim of bringing expenditure in this area under better control. We have recently been discussing changes with the Bar Council and others to make the scheme workable and minimise bureaucratic burdens and we have proposed some changes to this effect. The Bar Council has reacted in a positive way. Notwithstanding these changes, the scheme will still deliver its aims of better cost control, and will help mitigate the rate of inflation in this area of business and thus reduce pressures on other aspects of the legal aid budget.

The Fundamental Legal Aid Review is looking at how a finite budget can be better targeted at those most in need which includes studying cost drivers in very high cost cases and will make recommendations by the end of the year.

Lord Chancellor

Mr. Amess: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Department expects the post of Lord Chancellor to be abolished; and if he will make a statement. [180759]

Mr. Leslie: Subject to the wishes of Parliament the office of Lord Chancellor will be abolished once the relevant provisions of the Constitutional Reform Bill, and other necessary measures, have been brought into effect.

Postal Voting

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Department has to extend trials of postal voting during the next general election. [180762]

Mr. Leslie: None.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many individual electors with special needs were assisted in voting through domiciliary visits by electoral staff in each of the four postal pilot areas on 10 June. [180786]

Mr. Leslie: This information is not held centrally. The Electoral Commission has a statutory duty to produce an evaluation of the pilots. This report must take into consideration the evaluation criteria specified in section 4 of the European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004. I understand that this report will assess the accessibility of the pilot elections for those with special needs.

Refurbishing Costs

Mr. Alan Duncan: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what costs were incurred by the Department and its predecessors in refurbishing the departmental estate in each financial year since 1996–97. [180318]

Mr. Leslie: The departmental estate is comprised of the headquarters offices (Selborne House, Southside, Millbank, Chancery Lane, Conquest, Steel and Clive House) and 372 regional buildings, which are mostly court and tribunal premises.

The expenditure can be broken down as follows:

Financial Year	*Cost of refurbishment and maintenance (£ million)*
1996–97	24.3
1997–98	23.5
1998–99	24.4
1999–2000	27.9
2000–01	27.4
2001–02	18.8
2002–03	19.1
2003–04	26.5

TRANSPORT

Aircraft Emissions (Education)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to educate the public about the environmental consequences of increased emissions from aircraft. [179925]

Mr. McNulty: The extensive national consultation exercise leading up to the Government's recent Air Transport White Paper gave prominence to the environmental impacts of the growth of air transport. In addition public debate will be stimulated by the Governments commitment to including aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Defra has previously carried out a national campaign, aimed at heightening awareness of personal impact upon climate change though lifestyle choices, and continues do so across a number of fields.

British Transport Police

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action his Department is taking to cover the deficit in the British Transport Police Pension Fund shown in the December 2002 valuation; and if he will make a statement. [181001]

Mr. McNulty: It is currently for the SRA as employer of the British Transport Police, the Management Committee of the Fund, and the corporate pension trustee to agree how to address the deficit. From 1 July 2004 the employer responsibility will be passed to the new British Transport Police Authority. A revaluation of the Fund is to be carried out with effect from 30 June 2004. The results will not be known for some months.

Freight Transport

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much tonnage of goods was lifted by *(a)* road and *(b)* rail in each year since 1997. [181495]

Dr. Howells: The information is as follows:

Goods lifted by road and rail in Great Britain: 1997 to 2003

Million tonnes

	Road	*Rail*[1]
1997	1,740	105
1998	1,727	102
1999	1,661	[2]92
2000	1,689	95
2001	1,660	94
2002	1,708	87
2003	[3]1,725	89

[1] Rail figures are for financial years ie 1997–98 etc.

[2] Rail figures from 1999 are not directly comparable with previous data due to a change in methodology.

[3] Provisional.

Source:

Department for Transport (road); Strategic Rail Authority (rail).

Rail Service (North-West)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the future of *(a)* freight and *(b)* passenger trains to Europe from the North West. [180720]

Mr. McNulty: Current arrangements for cross-Channel freight services derive from the contract between Eurotunnel, British Railways Board and SNCF. As required by section 206 of the Transport Act 2000, the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) is developing a regional Channel Tunnel strategy for passenger and

freight services. The SRA's proposals will have to take account of the business plan expected to be produced shortly by the Eurotunnel Board.

Road Safety

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries there were on the roads of Tamworth constituency in each of the last 10 years. [179961]

Mr. Jamieson: The information currently available relates to local authorities. The following table shows the number of deaths and serious injuries there were on the roads of the Tamworth local authority for the last 10 years for which data are available. Estimates on the basis of parliamentary constituencies will be prepared in the summer. I shall write to the hon. Member when figures are available and place a copy of my letter in the Libraries of the House.

Road deaths and serious injuries in Tamworth local authority, 1993–2002

	Killed	*Serious injuries*
1993	1	20
1994	1	34
1995	1	17
1996	0	17
1997	2	19
1998	0	15
1999	0	15
2000	3	10
2001	2	11
2002	0	21
Total	10	179

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking towards meeting the goals of *(a)* a 40 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents and *(b)* a 50 per cent. reduction in children killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 2010. [180303]

Mr. Jamieson: Our road safety strategy—"Tomorrow's roads—safer for everyone"—published in March 2000, set out the framework for delivering further improvements in road safety over the decade to 2010. It contains more than 150 measures across 10 themes with a key focus on better education, better engineering and better enforcement.

A number of these measures have already been, or are being, implemented with the active involvement of many stakeholders across Britain both within and outside Government. "Road Casualties Great Britain 2003: Main Results" published on 24 June 2004 shows that total deaths or serious injuries in 2003 were 22 per cent. below the 1994–98 baseline average; over half way towards our 40 per cent. target by 2010. Child deaths or serious injuries were down 40 per cent.; over three-quarters of the way towards our 50 per cent. target by 2010.

The strategy included a commitment to formally review progress every three years. The first review published in April 2004 concluded that we are on track to deliver the challenging casualty reduction targets, while highlighting some areas requiring continuing attention. These areas are being given special focus as we continue to develop the strategy as new ideas and technology emerge.

Transport Infrastructure (Chorley)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government money has been spent on Chorley *(a)* bus interchange and *(b)* train station; and what the planned expenditure is for the coming year. [180719]

Mr. McNulty: Lancashire county council and Chorley borough council jointly developed the new Chorley bus Interchange completed in March 2003 at a cost of £3.267 million.

The refurbishment of the railway station opposite the bus interchange commenced on the 5 January 2004 to create a true Transport interchange for Chorley. Over £464,000 of government borrowing has been approved.

There is no further planned expenditure for the following year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Charter Review

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to involve Gaelic-speaking organisations in the BBC Charter Review. [179508]

Tessa Jowell: Charter review will examine all aspects of the BBC's role, structure and function—subject to one certain outcome, that it will result in a strong BBC, independent of Government.

One of the issues that the Charter review is considering is how the BBC represents nations, regions and communities, and we will be consulting further as Charter review proceeds. I will ensure that Gaelic speaking organisations are included.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps within the BBC Charter review process to ensure that BBC World remains part of the BBC. [179647]

Tessa Jowell: As set out in the consultation document The Review of the BBC's Royal Charter, the BBC's international activities are an area we will be considering as Charter review progresses. We are not yet in a position to draw any conclusions about the outcome of Charter review save that it will result in a strong BBC, independent of Government.

British Film Institute

Mr. Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions she has had with the British Film Institute about preserving its archive; and if she will make a statement; [181412]

(2) what funding her Department has made available to digitise the British Film Institute's archive; and if she will make a statement; [181458]

(3) what percentage of the British Film Institute's archive has been digitised. [181459]

BEST COPY AVAILBLE

Estelle Morris: I recently met the Chair and Director of the British Film Institute (BFI), to discuss their plans to reform the BFI. A key element of this strategy is a long-term plan to secure and further develop the BFI's Archive. Immediate initial investment is being made to stabilise the collection, improve storage, and enhance public understanding of its contents. Increased training of existing staff and recruitment of new curatorial and technical staff will support this capital investment.

Through the UK Film Council, the Government have increased their core funding of the BFI from £14.5 million to £16 million this financial year, together with a one off award of an additional £2 million in capital funds. It is not possible to itemise expenditure specifically for digitisation. The largest proportion of new material being received at the BFI Archive is UK television programming, almost all of which is now delivered in a digital format. Currently, it is not possible to calculate exactly the amount of material in the Archive that is digitised, though the BFI are planning to invest significantly in digital access technology, so that the widest possible number of people can enjoy the treasures within the film Archive.

Dorney Lake Rowing Facility

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money has been spent on the Dorney Lake Rowing Facility; what the total cost has been of developing the facility to date; and if she will make a statement. [180526]

Mr. Caborn: The Department allocates funding for sport through Sport England and UK Sport.

In May 2004, £17 million had been spent by Eton College on developing the Dorney Lake Rowing Facility. No public money has been spent on the facility to date.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research has been conducted to compare the Dorney Lake Rowing Facility with other international rowing venues in Europe; and if she will make a statement. [180527]

Mr. Caborn: The Department is not aware of any research of this type.

The Amateur Rowing Association (AMA), as the Governing Body for rowing, may be able to provide further information. The AMA is working very closely with Eton College to develop the Dorney Lake facility.

Lottery Revenue

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue from National Lottery ticket sales has not been paid out in prizes; by whom this revenue is held; what rate of interest is applicable; and to whose benefit that interest accrues. [180638]

Estelle Morris: The total level of Lottery prizes that have not been claimed since the National Lottery began is £633,480,414. The current level of unclaimed prizes is £100,984,259. All prize money is held in an independently managed prize fund until a winning player claims a prize. The average interest on this fund is 4.2395 per cent. Any interest accrued from this fund, along with any prizes left unclaimed 180 days after the date of the relevant draw, is passed to the good causes. Camelot does place adverts nationally and locally in the run up to the 180 day deadline for large unclaimed prizes. They also announce in which area the ticket was purchased.

Shurland Hall

Mr. Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recommendations Mr. Simon Thurley of English Heritage made to her on the future of Shurland Hall at Eastchurch in the Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency following his visit; and if she will make a statement; [181273]

(2) when she expects to make a decision on the future of Shurland Hall at Eastchurch in the Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency; and if she will make a statement. [181274]

Mr. Caborn: Following agreement between English Heritage and the owners of Shurland Hall, a contract has recently been let by English Heritage for the preparation of an outline repair and development scheme with a view to implementation by the private sector. The first tranche of the holding repairs is expected to take place in summer 2005 rather than summer 2004. In view of the welcome agreement of the owners, involvement by the Secretary of State is not appropriate.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Child Deaths

Tim Loughton: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how many cases of parents prosecuted for causing child deaths have so far been reviewed following the review announced in January; [178508]

(2) when she expects the review of cases of parents convicted of causing child deaths to be completed. [178509]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the Attorney-General's statement, *Official Report, House of Lords*, 5 May 2004, columns 55–57WS.

Criminal Prosecutions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful criminal prosecutions were brought for crimes perpetrated in Greater London in each year since 1995. [177056]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the number of defendants whose case resulted in a conviction or in an unsuccessful outcome in the London area of the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last nine years. The table also shows convictions and unsuccessful outcomes as a proportion of the total number of defendant cases finalised in the magistrates courts and in the Crown court in each of the years in question.

Convictions comprise both guilty pleas and cases resulting in a guilty verdict following a contested hearing. In addition, magistrates courts convictions include a number of minor motoring matters proved in the absence of the defendant.

Unsuccessful outcomes in the magistrates courts comprise: discontinuances; cases written off (usually because the defendant could not be traced by the police); discharged committals; dismissals no case to answer; and dismissals after full trial. Unsuccessful outcomes in the Crown court comprise: cases in which the prosecution decided not to proceed before a jury was sworn, and in which the judge ordered an acquittal; cases written off (usually because the defendant could not be traced by the police); judge directed acquittals; and acquittals by the jury.

In 1995, convictions amounted to 63.5 per cent. of all outcomes and unsuccessful outcomes to 36.5 per cent. By 2003 convictions had risen to 72.2 per cent., while unsuccessful outcomes had fallen to 27.8 per cent.

Case outcomes CPS London

	1995		*1996*		*1997*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Magistrates courts						
Discontinuances	33,944	13.9	26,754	16.0	26,272	13.4
Write offs	44,990	18.4	30,547	18.3	25,809	13.1
Committals Discharged	253	0.1	323	0.2	387	0.2
Dismissals No Case to Answer	521	0.2	315	0.2	558	0.3
Dismissals after Trial	3,860	1.6	2,139	1.3	2,855	1.5
Total unsuccessful outcomes in magistrates courts	83,568	34.2	60,077	36.0	55,881	28.4
Guilty Pleas	106,232	43.5	70,821	42.4	95,804	48.7
Proofs in Absence	18,897	7.7	11,766	7.0	16,259	8.3
Convictions after Trial	17,270	7.1	8,720	5.2	11,655	5.9
Total convictions in magistrates courts	142,399	58.3	91,306	54.7	123,718	62.9
Crown court						
Judge Ordered Acquittals	2,210	0.9	1,774	1.1	1,926	1.0
Write offs	731	0.3	472	0.3	420	0.2
Judge Directed Acquittals	540	0.2	351	0.2	400	0.2
Acquittals after Trial	1,974	0.8	1,522	0.9	2,121	1.1
Total unsuccessful outcomes in Crown court	5,455	2.2	4,119	2.5	4,867	2.5
Guilty Pleas	9,112	3.7	8,769	5.3	8,565	4.4
Convictions after Trial	3,660	1.5	2,636	1.6	3,685	1.9
Total convictions in Crown court	12,772	5.2	11,404	6.8	12,250	6.2
Total Unsuccessful Outcomes	89,023	36.5	64,196	38.5	60,748	30.9
Total Convictions	155,171	63.5	102,711	61.5	135,967	69.1
Total Outcomes	244,194		166,907		196,715	

	1998		*1999*		*2000*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Magistrates courts						
Discontinuances	22,695	12.3	22,534	13.3	21,213	13.6
Write offs	21,525	11.6	18,974	11.2	17,630	11.3
Committals Discharged	220	0.1	176	0.1	260	0.2
Dismissals No Case to Answer	459	0.2	409	0.2	392	0.3
Dismissals after Trial	2,669	1.4	2,564	1.5	2,406	1.5
Total unsuccessful outcomes in magistrates courts	47,569	25.7	44,656	26.3	41,901	26.9
Guilty Pleas	98,703	53.3	91,257	53.8	84,039	53.9
Proofs in Absence	12,835	6.9	11,361	6.7	10,100	6.5
Convictions after Trial	10,255	5.5	8,482	5.0	6,935	4.4
Total convictions in magistrates courts	121,794	65.8	111,100	65.5	101,074	64.8
Crown court						
Judge Ordered Acquittals	2,137	1.2	2,057	1.2	2,011	1.3
Write offs	482	0.3	366	0.2	306	0.2
Judge Directed Acquittals	454	0.2	461	0.3	411	0.3
Acquittals after Trial	2,044	1.1	1,888	1.1	1,668	1.1
Total unsuccessful outcomes in Crown court	5,116	2.8	4,773	2.8	4,397	2.8
Guilty Pleas	7,143	3.9	5,844	3.4	5,735	3.7
Convictions after Trial	3,497	1.9	3,182	1.9	2,934	1.9
Total convictions in Crown court	10,640	5.7	9,027	5.3	8,669	5.6
Total Unsuccessful Outcomes	52,685	28.5	49,429	29.2	46,298	29.7
Total Convictions	132,434	71.5	120,127	70.8	109,743	70.3
Total Outcomes	185,119		169,556		156,041	

	2001		2002		2003	
	Numbers	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Magistrates courts						
Discontinuances	22,831	13.9	24,389	13.3	19,794	11.1
Write offs	19,911	12.1	19,915	10.8	19,834	11.1
Committals Discharged	364	0.2	466	0.3	616	0.3
Dismissals No Case to Answer	388	0.2	399	0.2	409	0.2
Dismissals after Trial	2,297	1.4	2,916	1.6	2,433	1.4
Total unsuccessful outcomes in magistrates courts	45,791	27.9	48,085	26.1	43,086	24.1
Guilty Pleas	88,202	53.7	99,088	53.9	95,835	53.6
Proofs in Absence	10,378	6.3	11,557	6.3	10,890	6.1
Convictions after Trial	6,268	3.8	8,180	4.4	9,174	5.1
Total convictions in magistrates courts	104,848	63.8	118,825	64.6	115,899	64.8
Crown court.						
Judge Ordered Acquittals	2,389	1.5	3,378	1.8	3,450	1.9
Write offs	357	0.2	440	0.2	730	0.4
Judge Directed Acquittals	376	0.2	390	0.2	400	0.2
Acquittals after Trial	1,675	1.0	1,718	0.9	2,043	1.1
Total unsuccessful outcomes in Crown court	4,797	2.9	5,925	3.2	6,623	3.7
Guilty Pleas	5,683	3.5	6,607	3.6	8,320	4.7
Convictions after Trial	3,264	2.0	4,536	2.5	4,809	2.7
Total convictions in Crown court	8,947	5.4	11,143	6.1	13,129	7.3
Total Unsuccessful Outcomes	50,588	30.8	54,009	29.4	49,709	27.8
Total Convictions	113,795	69.2	129,968	70.6	129,028	72.2
Total Outcomes	164,383		183,978		178,737	

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Civil Service

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what changes she expects in the number of civil service jobs in her Department in response to the Gershon Review. [180532]

Ms Hewitt: I refer to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Lichfield (Michael Fabricant) on this subject on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1292–93W.

European Community Acquis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 959W, on deregulation, what assessment she has made of the range of options available to the European Commission to eliminate European legal texts that are not obsolete and are not duplicated elsewhere in the Community acquis. [180437]

Jacqui Smith: My Department has not undertaken such an assessment. The Commission set out its approach to securing a reliable, up-to-date and user-friendly body of EC law in its Communication of February 2003, "Updating and Simplifying the Community Acquis" ((COM 2003) 71 final). This covers: simplification; consolidation; codification; repeal; obsolescence; and organisation and presentation of the acquis. It has just published a second report (COM (2004) 432) detailing progress on plans laid out in the 2003 communication.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 959W, on deregulation, whether the Competitiveness Council can make changes to the legal status of the Community acquis unilaterally. [180438]

Jacqui Smith: The Competitiveness Council cannot change the acquis unilaterally. EU legislation is made and amended following the procedures set down in the Treaty.

Consultants

Mr. Flight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the expenditure on consultants was for each regional development agency in each year since 1997. [173795]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 19 May 2004]:* The regional development agencies have provided the following information.

Spend by regional development agencies on consultants in 2003–04

Agency	£ million
Advantage West Midlands	0.6
East of England Development Agency	1.2
East Midlands Development Agency	.5
London Development Agency	4
North West Development Agency	3.4
ONE North East	2.5
South East of England Development Agency	3
South West of England Regional Development Agency	0.9
Yorkshire Forward	.2

The Regional Development Agencies do not retain information on consultancy costs in relation to past years and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when she will reply to the letter of 18 March

from the hon. Member for Totnes concerning Mr. Bob Bowling of Brixham and grants for solar heating. [180636]

Mr. Timms: My Department has no record of having received the letter. Following inquiries from my officials we will ensure that the copy faxed from the hon. Member's office on 23 June is answered promptly.

Defence Exports

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent promoting defence exports by British Trade International in each of the last three years. [180151]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Government policy in respect of defence exports is implemented by the Defence Exports Service Organisation in the Ministry of Defence, who work in support of defence companies in their bid to undertake legitimate defence exports. However, UK Trade and Investment (formerly British Trade International) continues to support exhibitions and seminars abroad, some of which are mainly defence related.

Figures for the last three years are:

	£
2001–02	551,950
2002–03	645,219
2003–04	566,435

E-mail (Consumer Protection)

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of current consumer protection measures in dealing with e-mail promotion and transaction of frauds; and what steps she will take to ensure that perpetrators of such e-mails receive appropriate penalties. [179496]

Mr. Timms: E-mail is an extremely powerful vehicle for targeting vast numbers of consumers at very low cost. The types of scams that they carry are also becoming more sophisticated and the nature of the medium also means perpetrators can easily hide their real identities. This particular kind of fraud is therefore challenging, but we believe we are helping to put in place an effective framework of activities to meet it.

First, through law and enforcement co-operation. E-mail fraud is dealt with under the same laws as other fraud and consumer protection laws such as misleading advertising and distance selling. Therefore they incur the same penalties for infringements of these laws. Our focus then is on ensuring that they can be effectively enforced. To help this process, we are building partnerships between Government, regulators and industry to develop ways—including technological solutions—to find the perpetrators and stop this kind of activity. As many of these types of e-mail come from abroad, a major part of this is building effective co-operation agreements with other countries. In the past two years the UK has built up a network of consumer protection co-operation agreements with other countries including the United States and our European Union partners, and we are at the forefront of driving international co-operation to tackle unsolicited emails (SPAM).

Second, through information. Advice and guidance to help consumers is key. The Department of Trade and Industry, Home Office and Office of Fair Trading all provide a wide range of information on email fraud for consumers. See www.dti.gov.uk/ccp www.homeoffice.gov.uk and www.oft.gov.uk Consumers should also take note of the help and guidance given by the Internet Service Provider (ISP).

We believe that this approach—encompassing co-operation, enforcement, information provision and technological solutions—is the right one, and we will continue to improve and build on these elements.

Junk E-mails

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what her latest estimate is of the percentage of e-mails received in the UK that are unwanted junk e-mails; and by how much this figure has changed since December 2003. [181015]

Mr. Timms: The Government do not estimate the amount of unwanted junk e-mails received in the UK. However, according to industry sources the proportion of UK junk e-mails received at network level for May 2004 was 58.5 per cent. of the total received compared with 33.3 per cent. for December 2003.

MG Rover Group

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what dates *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings were held between her Department and MG Rover Group since 2000; and if she will place the minutes of these meetings in the Library. [179316]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* My officials have regular informal discussions and meetings with MG Rover Group, as they do with other key automotive companies operating in the UK. These discussions are not formally minuted.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what duties have been placed upon MG Rover Group to report on the company's financial performance to the Government. [179320]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* MG Rover Group have the same duties as any other private company to report on their financial performance.

Miners' Strike

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications there have been for enhanced payments from the Mineworkers Pension Scheme from miners dismissed for offences committed during the 1984–85 miners' strike; how many were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful and used the appeals procedure; how many successful appeals there have been; and if she will break down the numbers by former coalfield areas. [181122]

Nigel Griffiths: There were a total of 204 applications for the Dismissed Miners Compensation Scheme of which 141 were successful at the initial stage. Two applications were unable to progress where necessary information was requested but, despite reminders, was never provided.

There were 61 unsuccessful applicants of whom 34 appealed against the original decision. Four of these did not return the appeal form despite reminders being issued and two applicants wished for the appeal to proceed but did not request an oral hearing. 28 applicants requested an oral hearing which took place on a regional basis. There were three successful appeals, based on new information not available at the time of the original decision bringing the total number of successful applicants to 144.

Percentage

	Successful applicants by area (144)	*Unsuccessful applicants by area (58)*
North East	11	59
Wales	4	8
Yorkshire	14	2
Notts/Derbys/Leics area	13	15
South/South East	20	5
Scotland	38	8
Abroad	—	3
Total	100	100

The table provides the breakdown analysis by current address.

National Minimum Wage (Scotland)

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 820W, on the national minimum wage (Scotland), for what reasons it is not now possible to provide a figure for those aged over 21 years benefiting from the national minimum wage in the same terms as the answer to a similar question in June 2003. [180519]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Based on the Office for National Statistics' Low Pay data released in 2003, the DTI estimates that in Scotland, between 90,000 and 110,000 people aged 22 or over were expected to have benefited from the October 2003 uprating of the national minimum wage. It is not possible to provide estimates specifically for 18 to 21-year-olds (the Development Rate) because of small sample size.

Post Office Closures

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban post offices have closed in (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Scotland in each of the last five years; [181020]

(2) how many *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural post offices have closed in each of the English regions in each of the last five years. [181021]

Mr. Timms: I understand that since March 2000 the company has recorded details of post office closures, including those under the urban reinvention programme, which commenced in late 2002, on the basis of Government region and country. The figures requested are broken down in the following table.

Urban/rural closures by region

	2000–01		*2001–02*		*2002–03*		*2003–04*	
Region	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*
East Midlands	3	42	5	33	24	7	88	20
East of England	10	60	+1	22	17	16	91	17
London	9	1	17	+1	43	1	155	0
North East	1	4	0	10	8	1	45	10
North West	11	28	9	+4	25	12	149	12
Northern Ireland	4	17	4	2	4	8	13	7
Scotland	7	57	5	21	13	7	63	14
South East	26	52	7	29	18	23	183	1
South West	11	48	7	26	31	8	107	25
Wales	9	61	3	23	11	7	54	19
West Midlands	5	31	8	16	22	13	87	12
Yorkshire and Humber	10	40	4	17	14	12	94	12
Total	106	441	68	194	[1]230	115	[2]1,129	149

[1] Includes 102 closures under the urban reinvention programme.
[2] Includes 1,109 closures under the urban reinvention programme and an adjustment of 35 for permanent closures previously considered to be temporary.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices have been closed under the urban post office reinvention programme in each region of the UK since its inception. [181022]

Mr. Timms: I am advised that since March 2000 the company has recorded details of post office closures, including those under the urban reinvention programme, which commenced in late 2002, on the basis of Government region and country. The figures requested are broken down in the following table.

Urban reinvention closures by region

Region	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*Total*
East Midlands	7	44	51
East of England	11	44	55
London	11	77	88
North east	4	21	25
North west	10	82	92

Urban reinvention closures by region

Region	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*Total*
Northern Ireland	0	12	1
Scotland	8	27	35
South east	19	110	129
South west	9	52	61
Wales	9	25	34
West Midlands	7	47	54
Yorkshire and Humber	7	51	58
Total	102	1,109	1,211

Post Office Contracts (Tesco)

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many post office contracts Tesco has taken over as a result of its takeover of *(a)* the T&S Group chain of convenience stores, *(b)* Adminstore and *(c)* other stores; and how many Post Office contracts Tesco has given notice of its intention to terminate, broken down by (i) the date the Government was notified and (ii) location; [178937]

(2) for which of the post offices whose contracts Tesco has given notice of its intention to terminate will be *(a)* relocated nearby and *(b)* permanently closed; [178938]

(3) what assessment she has made of the cost to Post Office Ltd. of *(a)* relocating and *(b)* permanently closing the post office branches whose contracts have been terminated by Tesco. [178939]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 June 2004]:* These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. and I have therefore asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Small Businesses (Coventry)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government have taken to promote small businesses in the constituency of Coventry, South since 1997. [180354]

Nigel Griffiths: The Business Link Operator for Coventry, South, Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, has provided assistance to 1544 enterprises, in the Coventry, South constituency since 2001. The Small Business Service was set up as an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry in April 2000. Contracts were exchanged with a national network of 45 Business Link Operators (six in the West Midlands) to provide Business Support to small and medium sized enterprises from April 2001. Before this date Government Support to business was provided through Training and Enterprise Councils.

496 of the 1,544 companies received Business Start Up advice, other assistance provided included Workforce Development, Financial advice, Investors In People, Specialist Business Advice, International Trade, and Marketing assistance.

167 of the companies were female run businesses and 122 were ethnic run businesses.

Since April 2000 the Enterprise Grant scheme (which closed on 31 March 2004) enabled nine companies to receive offers of grant with a total value of £421,000.

Since 1997 the Research and Development scheme and its predecessor Smart enabled 20 local companies to receive offers of grant with a total value of £1,067,500.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice she offers to British companies intending to undertake commercial activities in the Western Sahara. [180734]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK views the status of Western Sahara as undetermined and we fully support the efforts of the UN Secretary General and his personal envoy, James Baker, to find a fair and lasting solution to the dispute.

Commercial deals are a matter for the companies concerned but the companies should be aware of the undetermined status of the territory.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alley Gating

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what grants Chorley council can access for alley gating; [179777]

(2) how many alley gate schemes have gone ahead in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire, broken down by district and *(c)* the north-west region, broken down by constituency; [179778]

(3) how many councils have had alley gate schemes rejected in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Chorley. [179779]

Ms Blears: Comprehensive figures for schemes are not available and there are a number of funds which authorities can access for such project. For example, Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has used the Building Safer Communities Fund to gate off two streets in 2002–03 and erect a further seven gates in 2003–04.

As part of our "Together" antisocial behaviour initiative, we have introduced Operation Gate It—a specific fund for environmental solution to problems of antisocial behaviour, including alley gating, accessed through our partner Groundwork UK. Last year we funded pilot Gate-It schemes in Blackburn, Bury, Bootle and Ormskirk. On 24 June, we announced further Gate It Schemes in Blackpool and Wigan. This year's fund has closed but we will be running it again next year.

Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, local authorities have the power to close off rights of way for the purposes of crime prevention. To get these powers, they need to apply to Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs Secretary of State for a particular area to be designated under the Act. Areas have been designated in Halton, Knowsley, Manchester, Salford and Oldham.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that animal experiments taking place at universities are legal and ethical. [179599]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 June 2004]*: The use of animals in scientific procedures in the UK, whether at universities or elsewhere, is strictly regulated by the Home Office in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Licences are only granted for animal experiments undertaken for specified permissible purposes. There has to be no alternative to using animals, and the likely benefits of the work have to outweigh the adverse effects on the animals concerned. The number of animals used and any suffering that may be caused have to be minimised.

Any proposal to conduct a programme of animal experiments has first to be considered by the local ethical review process at the establishment concerned. A licence application is only submitted to the Home Office once those involved in that local process are satisfied that it can be justified.

Applications received by the Home Office are rigorously assessed by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate, to ensure the criteria in the 1986 Act are met. Inspectors are either medical or veterinary graduates, and advise the Secretary of State on whether and on what terms licence authorities should be granted. Some applications are also referred for advice to the Animal Procedures Committee.

Establishments where licensed animal experiments are conducted are visited regularly by the inspectorate, to monitor progress and ensure compliance with licence authorities. The majority of visits of inspections are without notice. Appropriate action is taken should irregularities or breaches of licence conditions come to light.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Coleman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact of section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 on asylum seekers who have *(a)* been trafficked to the UK, *(b)* been smuggled into the UK and *(c)* suffered rape or torture or other serious traumatic experiences before arrival in the UK; and what written documents he expects such asylum seekers to produce as evidence of their circumstances. [179930]

Mr. Browne: Assessment of the impact of section 55 is integral to the close monitoring of the operation of the policy since implementation on 8 January 2003. As part of these arrangements the National Asylum Support Service maintains an open dialogue with the voluntary sector agencies, local government and other stakeholders. The Government have reviewed section 55 in the light of experience of its operation, the changing pattern of asylum applications since implementation, concerns raised about the impact of the policy, and most recently in the light of the Court of Appeal judgment of 21 May 2004 in the case of Limbuela and others.

Each case is decided individually on its merits. Those who can give a credible account, with or without supporting documents, that their asylum claim was made within three days of arrival in the United Kingdom will normally be eligible to apply for National Asylum Support Service (MASS) support. Families with children and those who can show that they would suffer treatment contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) receive support even if they did not make their asylum claim as soon as reasonably practicable.

No evidence has been produced to indicate that the categories of asylum seekers listed in the question have been adversely affected by the provisions of section 55.

Mr. Coleman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the proportion of asylum seekers subject to section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 decision who were granted access to asylum support in *(a)* the third quarter of 2003, *(b)* the last quarter of 2003 and *(c)* the first quarter of 2004. [179933]

Mr. Browne: Section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 came into force on 8 January 2003, restricting the availability of National Asylum Support Service (NASS) support to those asylum seekers who make an asylum application as soon as reasonably practicable. From 17 December 2003, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced that those who could give a credible account, that their asylum claim was made within three days of arrival in the United Kingdom will normally be accepted as having applied as soon as reasonably practicable.

The table shows the proportions of asylum seekers that were considered eligible for support under section 55, in quarter 3 and 4 of 2003, and quarter 1 of 2004:

Quarter	*Total cases referred for a section 55 decision*[1]	*Number eligible for support under section 55*[1]	*Proportion eligible for support under section 55*[1] *(percentage)*
Q3 2003	4,260	445	10
Q4 2003	3,020	380	13
Q1 2004	2,650	1,250	47

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, and do not include dependants.

Information on the number of asylum seekers supported by NASS is published in the quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin, "Asylum Statistics United Kingdom", available from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Cannabis

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are to repeat the longitudinal studies of cannabis smoking completed in the 1960s and 1970s to take account of the increased potency of today's cannabis. [179329]

Caroline Flint: We have no plans to replicate such studies. We rely upon the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, which is based upon a wide-ranging review of the available research. It is the council's view that there is no clear evidence that variants of cannabis with higher levels of its main psychoactive ingredient tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cause more health problems. The council will continue to monitor the emerging international research on this issue very carefully.

Community Cohesion

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to encourage community cohesion. [172737]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office is working with a range of partners to build community cohesion. It is jointly supporting the Community Cohesion Pathfinder Programme—with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)—under which local authorities and the voluntary and community sector are working together in 14 areas to build cohesion. The programme is generating examples of best practice in breaking down barriers between and within communities relating to race, faith, age and gender. The lessons learnt from this programme will be evaluated and shared across all local authorities in the country.

The Home Office and partners have issued guidance to local authorities on how to measure and build community cohesion, and is working with the independent Community Cohesion Panel and other Departments to mainstream cohesion into Government policy. For example, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) will shortly issue guidance on community cohesion standards for schools; the local authority comprehensive performance assessment for 2005 will cover community cohesion; and the Positive Activities for Young People Programme, funded by several Departments, according to a funding formula which takes account of community cohesion issues among other matters.

Other Government policies contribute to improving community cohesion. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund supports cohesion by working towards increased employment, reduced crime, and better educational attainment in deprived areas of England. Civil Renewal and community cohesion complement each other—involving local people in identifying and solving the problems that affect their communities empowers communities to deal with change in society; and cohesion helps to build strengthened communities in which people come together to deal with their common concerns.

The ODPM Select Committee has found in its recent inquiry into social cohesion that there has been significant progress since the disturbances of 2001, and the Home Office will be giving careful consideration to the Committee's recommendations in deciding how to take the community cohesion agenda forward.

Crime Reduction

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he expects to *(a)* receive and *(b)* publish the concluding assessments of the effectiveness of each project funded under the Crime Reduction Programme. [179713]

Ms Blears *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* The Home Office has published a wide range of research reports containing results from evaluation of crime reduction initiatives funded under the Crime Reduction Programme (CRP). These include reports on the reducing burglary initiative, the CCTV initiative, the targeted policing initiative, the 'On Track' intervention aimed at children at risk of getting involved in crime and treatment of offenders. The reports have been deposited in the Library.

The CRP consists of many strands and many individual projects under these strands. The CRP publication plans are designed to bring together information from the various individual projects, with an emphasis of provision of material that will provide good practice guidance for practitioners. It is expected that reports containing the results from the CRP, with the exception of the final results from the restorative justice strand and the evaluation of Probation Pathfinder Offending Behaviour Programmes, will have been published by the end of 2004.

It is expected that the final evaluation report of the Probation Pathfinder Offending Behaviour Programme will appear in the summer of 2005. The CRP evaluation of restorative justice relates to a project commencing late in the course of the CRP and depends for its final assessment of effectiveness on a two-year reconviction rate study. This means that the final report is due towards the end of 2006, with publication in 2007. However, interim reports are planned for publication in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Crime/Policing (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will extend CCTV coverage in villages in the Chorley constituency. [180413]

Ms Blears: There are currently funds available for the installation of CCTV in locations, including villages, under the Building Safer Communities Fund. This Fund is allocated by the Home Office to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to enable them to tackle local crime priorities through a number of interventions, including CCTV.

It is open to the Chorley Community Safety Partnership to decide whether they wish to extend CCTV coverage in their area.

Criminal Justice Act

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of section 127 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on industrial relations in the Prison Service. [179545]

Paul Goggins: Our assessment is that section 127 is unnecessary if there is a binding employee relations agreement.

Drink Spiking

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of drink spiking were reported in England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [177507]

(2) what research his Department is funding into drug assisted rape and sexual assault; and if he will make a statement; [177573]

(3) what campaigns his Department is funding to warn people of the danger of drug rape; and if he will make a statement. [177574]

Caroline Flint: We take the use of drugs and other substances to assist in sexual offending and allegations of it very seriously. It is an offence to administer a stupefying substance with the intent of overpowering the victim to engage him or her in sexual activity. Penalties for this crime were recently substantially increased in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to a maximum of 10 years.

An average 450 allegations of this type are investigated by the Forensic Science Service annually. Of these only between 1 and 2 per cent. show any sign of an unexplained sedative drug. We do not hold central information about the number of cases reported.

The Home office is not currently funding research into drug assisted Rape.

An Action Plan was launched in July 2002 to implement the recommendations of the HMCPSI/ HMIC joint investigation into the investigation and prosecution of cases involving allegations of rape. This includes 'drug rape' and work with the Association of Chief Police Officers has seen improved guidance to the police. This includes a joint police and Crown Prosecution Service training package and the Joint Operational Police Instructions (JOPI) which were published in June 2003. The "Core Investigative Doctrine" and the "Sexual Offences Investigation Manual of Guidance" are also currently being updated by Centrex.

The Government are funding a three year national drugs campaign, FRANK, which uses TV, radio and print to provide a wide range of information on drugs issues. Its target group is young people and their parents. Information about spiked drinks and the use of substances for sex offences has been included where relevant in support materials provided to stakeholders and local community organisers.

The Safer Clubbing Guidance is to be updated later this year and will specifically contain guidance on the prevention of, and provision of information on, drug assisted sexual assault. This guidance is distributed to licensed premises, the police, licensing authorities and the local authority via Drug Action Teams.

European Community Treaty

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the measures adopted under Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community which the UK has opted into. [180291]

Mr. Browne: The policy of the United Kingdom towards participating in measures under Title IV of the treaty establishing the European Community is to review each proposed measure individually and to opt in when it is in the interests of the UK to do so. In a reply to a written question from the right hon. Member for Penrith and the Borders (David Maclean) on 12 March 1999, my right hon. Friend Jack Straw as Home Secretary confirmed his statement that day at the Justice and Home Affairs Council that, while we would maintain our frontier controls in line with the Amsterdam Treaty Protocol, we wished to co-operate in all other Justice and Home Affairs areas which did not conflict with this objective. In relation to Title IV, my right hon. Friend highlighted areas in which the UK would look to participate as asylum and civil judicial co-operation measures and measures to control illegal immigration where these did not conflict with maintenance of national immigration controls. In accordance with these stated principles, the UK has, to date, notified its intention to participate in a number of EU proposals, which include the following:

Council Regulation establishing EURODAC (electronic fingerprinting database);

Council Directive on mutual recognition of decisions concerning expulsion of third country nationals;

Council Decision on a funding programme for Borders, Visas, Asylum and Immigration Co-operation (ARGO);

Council Directive to harmonise financial penalties on carriers bringing third country nationals into the EU;

Negotiating mandate for a Parallel Dublin Agreement with Iceland and Norway;

Council Decision to sign/conclude a parallel Dublin agreement with Norway and Iceland;

Negotiating mandate for a readmission agreement with Sri Lanka; Negotiating mandate for a readmission agreement with Morocco;

Negotiating mandate for a readmission agreement with Pakistan;

Negotiating mandate for a readmission agreement with Russia;

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a European Refugee Fund;

Proposal for a Council Directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of applicants for asylum in member states;

Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the member state responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the member states by a third country national [Dublin II];

Recommendation for Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria a Readmission Agreement Between the European Community and Algeria;

Recommendation for Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with the Republic of Albania a readmission agreement between the European Community and Albania;

Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with the People's Republic of China a readmission agreement between the European Community and China;

Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with the Republic of Turkey a readmission agreement between the European Community and Turkey;

Initiative for a Council Directive defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence;

Council Directive on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and measures promoting balance of efforts between member states in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences;

Council Regulation amending Regulation 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas;

Council Regulation laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals;

Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with Denmark the conclusion of an Agreement concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the state responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in Denmark or any other ED member state, and to negotiate with Iceland and Norway the conclusion of a Protocol pursuant to Article 12 of the Agreement between the European Community and the

Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the State responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in a member state or in Iceland or Norway;

Council Directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of applicants for asylum in the member states;

Council Directive on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted;

Council Directive on the obligation of carriers to communicate passenger data;

Council Regulation on the Creation of an Immigration Liaison Officers Network.

Heritage (Cornwall)

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he will take to ensure that the culture and heritage of Cornwall is protected. [179460]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* In 2002, the Government recognised the Cornish language under the Council of Europe Charter for Minority or Regional Languages, which provides a framework for the protection of such languages. The Government office for the south-west is working closely with Cornwall county council and representatives of Cornish language organisations on a strategy for development of the language. The Home Office is currently considering representations from a number of Cornish organisations that the Government should include the Cornish within the scope of their reporting under the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Identity Cards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he will ensure that identity cards have sufficient data capacity to make them future proof. [180539]

Mr. Browne: Work is under way to establish the functional requirements for identity cards including the data storage requirements. It has not yet been established what data will be stored on the card but the specifications will be sufficient so that there is space for whatever data and biometrics need to be stored. If in the future higher capacity cards are needed, this can be accommodated as cards are renewed when they reach their expiry date.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions will be in place for *(a)* visually impaired people who are physically unable to register for identity cards and *(b)* individuals whose work has worn away their fingertips and who are physically unable to register for identity cards. [180581]

Mr. Browne: Recording biometrics from all applicants will help to ensure that an individual does not establish more than one identity in the scheme.

Schedule 1 of the draft Identity Cards Bill sets out the information that may be recorded on the National Identity Register. This includes "identifying information" which includes biometric information. Clause 38(4) of the draft Identity Cards Bill allows for exceptional circumstances which would include people who may not be able to register biometric information.

The precise arrangements for making an application for an ID card, including the provisions that will be put in place for people who may have difficulty in registering biometric information, will be decided as the identity cards programme progresses, following further preparatory work and testing of different options.

Illegal Weapons

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of illegal weapons held by *(a)* criminal gangs and *(b)* terrorist organisations in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [180294]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* We do not have estimates of the number of illegally-held weapons. We do not consider producing an estimate would be of any benefit as there is no basis on which to make such an estimate and any figure is likely to be highly inaccurate.

Information relating to Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland (Alistair Darling) and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Murphy).

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in finding the file of Mr. Warren Brien Otieno, Home Office reference 0179019, a constituent; and if he will make a statement. [180249]

Mr. Browne: Mr. Otieno's file, Home Office reference 0179019 has been traced. The case is being progressed and Mr. Otieno will be contacted in the near future.

Judicial Review

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which decisions by his Department were challenged by judicial review in the session *(a)* 2000–01 and *(b)* 2001–02; and in how many cases the (i) Department's decision was upheld by the court, (ii) court found for the applicant, (iii) Department submitted to the judgment and (iv) Department appealed successfully against the decision. [180118]

Mr. Browne: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum Seekers (Somalia)

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether failed asylum seekers being returned to Somalia are escorted for any part of the journey. [178087]

Mr. Browne: Failed asylum seekers who are returned to Somalia are escorted for their journey from the UK to Dubai. Their onward travel from Dubai to Somalia is unescorted.

Motorcycles

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorcycles have been confiscated and crushed by the police in the last year. [180288]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally.

National Criminal Intelligence Service

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantifiable progress the National Criminal Intelligence Service has made against its performance targets in *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04; and if he will make a statement. [180131]

Caroline Flint: In 2002–03, the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) achieved or exceeded all but two of the targets against its key objectives. In terms of specific successes, seizures of Class A drugs involving NCIS intelligence increased significantly on 2001–02. NCIS increased their contribution to European seizures of Class A drugs by a third. The number of assessments in support of the concerted inter-drugs agency action exceeded both the original and the revised higher level targets. Full performance details are listed in the annual report.

Quantifiable progress for 2003–04 includes:

A 5.6 per cent. increase in intelligence reports disseminated in respect of organised immigration crime;

A 75 per cent. increase in intelligence reports on money laundering and proceeds of crime.

Full details of NCIS performance against its targets will appear in the annual report.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the National Criminal Intelligence Service intends to publish annual reports for *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04. [180132]

Caroline Flint: The National Criminal Intelligence Service annual report for 2002–03 was published on 24 June 2004. This was the organisation's first such report as a non-departmental public body, working with the National Audit Office. It's completion took longer during this transitional year.

The report for 2003–04 is on schedule and due for publication by September.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he intends to answer parliamentary questions *(a)* 165196, *(b)* 164093, *(c)* 163121 and *(d)* 163122 tabled by the hon. Member for Southend, West. [170030]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 30 April 2004]:* The hon. Member received replies on the following dates to the questions cited above.

165196—30 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 1291W

164093—22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1366W

163121—28 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 1101W

163122—14 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 606W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the question tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 29 January, ref. 152147. [173275]

Fiona Mactaggart: The question cited, 152147, was actually asked of the Department for Work and Pensions. Home Office officials have spoken to DWP officials and have been informed that they will be answering the question shortly.

Passports

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK passports were recorded as lost or stolen in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* the first quarter of 2004 and *(c)* since the introduction of secure delivery. [180129]

Mr. Browne: On 8 December 2003 the UK Passport Service (UKPS) introduced comprehensive new arrangements for reporting and recording the total number of passports which were lost, stolen or recovered. Based on the arrangements in place at the time, UKPS records show that 184,301 passports were recorded as being lost, stolen or unavailable in 2003.

Under the new more comprehensive reporting and recording arrangements, the total number of lost and stolen passports reported to the UKPS in the first quarter of 2004 was 73,451 passports.

Secure delivery was introduced progressively from 9 February 2004.

The number of passports lost in the post are a small proportion of the total number of passports reported lost and stolen. In 2003, prior to the introduction of secure delivery, 3,593 passports were lost in the post. 188 passports have been lost in the four-and-a-half months since the introduction of secure delivery, the majority as a result of two incidents of theft of numbers of passports from mail depots.

Substance Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what comparison has been made of the success rates for patients treated by general practitioners for substance misuse and for those provided treatment by drugs case managers under the Criminal Justice Intervention Programme. [180399]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* All elements of the Criminal Justice Interventions Programme have been subject to, or are currently undergoing, evaluation by external evaluators. These evaluations seek to identify both the impact of the different interventions and also draw out lessons around implementation and delivery which feed into ongoing performance improvement.

The operation of Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs), which provide case management for drug misusing offenders in the programme, are being evaluated as part of the overall evaluation. But it is unlikely that the evaluation will compare directly the

operation of CJITs with the very important care provided by GPs. This reflects the difference in roles between GPs and CJIT workers, in particular in relation to the wider co-ordination roles of CJIT staff.

Worker Registration Scheme

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications the Home Office has received from new EU citizens under the worker registration scheme since 1 May. [181285]

Mr. Browne: We will be making information about the effect of EU enlargement available on a regular basis, in an open and transparent way, when it is appropriate and meaningful to do so.

Working Holidaymaker Visa Scheme

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the UK pursuant to being issued a visa under the working holidaymaker scheme have subsequently applied for leave to remain permanently. [178779]

Mr. Browne: The working holidaymaker (WHM) scheme is a temporary immigration category. There is no provision in the Immigration Rules for those granted leave to enter as a working holidaymaker to be granted indefinite leave to remain in this capacity.

Working holidaymakers may switch into work permit employment if they have spent at least 12 months within the United Kingdom and meet the necessary criteria.

No data is held on the number of working holidaymakers granted further leave to remain for the purpose of work permit employment, who subsequently apply for indefinite leave to remain on that basis.

An announcement on reforms to the WHM scheme will be made shortly.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Indonesia

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* monetary aid and *(b)* aid in kind his Department has (i) pledged and (ii) delivered to Aceh in each month since May 2003; and if he will make a statement. [180543]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: DFID assistance in Aceh is provided through the United Nations Office For Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). Since May 2003 DFID has provided £1,080,000 to OCHA and £750,000 to ICRC to support their humanitarian and emergency assistance programmes in Indonesia, including those in Aceh. DFID continues to monitor the situation in Aceh and are in regular contact with the UN, which co-ordinates humanitarian activities there. Under the terms of our grants, DFID does not require these agencies to provide monthly breakdowns of expenditure covering different elements of their programmes.

Bilateral Projects

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will break down the project value of each bilateral project by risk level as defined in the departmental annual report. [180554]

Hilary Benn: I have arranged for copies of the document entitled 'Breakdown of Bilateral Aid Projects by Risk level for 2003–04' to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Civil Society Organisations

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria are used by the Department to ascertain the relative effectiveness of civil society organisations through which it channels aid. [180589]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: DFID supports civil society organisations (CSOs) in a number of ways, including through centrally managed funding schemes such as the Civil Society Challenge Fund and Partnership Programme Agreements, and through individual country offices, country programmes and humanitarian assistance. CSOs play an important role in eliminating world poverty and are important partners for DFID in meeting that objective. DFID's support is based on CSOs' performance against specific agreed programmatic or strategic outcomes, rather than by assessing CSOs one against another. A range of monitoring, evaluation and review procedures are used.

EU Development Programme

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage contribution the UK made to the European Union development programme in 2003–04; what projections he has made for 2004–05 to 2006–07; what percentage of the EU development programme is projected to go to low income countries in each year; and what definition of low income country the EU uses in this calculation. [180591]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The forecast percentages of the indicative UK contributions to the EC aid budget for 2003–04 to 2006–07 are shown in the following table.

	Percentage of EC aid attributable to the UK
2003–04	19.09
2004–05	17.70
2005–06	17.20
2006–07	17.34

Source:
HM Treasury.

These figures do not include payments to the discretionary European Development Fund (EDF), for which the UK share is set at 12.7 per cent. for EDF 9. The latest available figure for the percentage of EC aid going to Low Income Countries (LICs) is 42 per cent. in 2002. This figure was calculated by DFID using the Development Assistance Committee definition of LICs—countries with a GNI per capita below $760 in 1998.

Actual EC aid spending levels are heavily dependent on political priorities, international circumstances and Commission and partner country capacity. DFID therefore does not produce forecasts for the poverty focus for future years.

HIV/AIDS

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the percentage change in the rate of HIV infection among young people aged 15 to 24 since June 2001 in *(a)* Asia and *(b)* Africa. [179935]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made its own assessment of the percentage change in the rate of HIV infection among young people aged 15 to 24 years since June 2001 in *(a)* Asia and *(b)* Africa. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provides this technical data and we support their work. Their 'Report on the global AIDS epidemic 2004', will be published on 6 July, I will write to the hon. Member shortly after with this information.

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the percentage of young people aged between 15 to 24 years in *(a)* the United States, *(b)* the Russian Federation and *(c)* Africa who have access to information, education and services to reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. [179950]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made its own estimate of the percentage of young people aged between 15 to 24 years in *(a)* the United States, *(b)* the Russian Federation and *(c)* Africa who have access to information, education and services to reduce their

vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) provides this technical data and we support their work. Their 'Report on the global AIDS epidemic 2004' will be published on 6 July. I will write to the hon. Member shortly after with this detailed information.

International Aid

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in discussions with *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* other countries on developing indicators that will allow system-wide comparison of effectiveness of international aid; what indicators are in place; and what plans he has to introduce new indicators. [180592]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The ultimate indicators of whether aid is effective are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These were agreed by 150 countries in 2000; they represent an unprecedented commitment by these countries to work together to improve the well-being of the world's poor. If aid is effective, it will result in progress towards the MDGs. For this reason, the MDGs are explicitly included in DFID's Public Service Agreement, and we monitor progress towards the goals every year in our Departmental Report.

Sometimes DFID may want to compare the effectiveness of individual agencies' aid. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is the major forum where this happens. Only bilateral donors are members of the DAC, although multilateral donors such as the World Bank have observer status on some committees.

The DAC conducts periodic "peer reviews", where the development policies and efforts of individual DAC members are critically examined by other members. Each country is reviewed approximately once every four years. These reviews provide a qualitative indication of the aid effectiveness of various donor agencies. More specifically, the DAC has also elaborated a framework of 13 indicators designed to measure objective evidence of progress on harmonisation and alignment. Information against these indicators is currently being collected in developing countries.

As a contribution to the debate over what constitutes effective aid, DFID has also developed a framework to assess the effectiveness of multilateral institutions. The framework was developed in consultation with our multilateral and bilateral partners, including the World Bank.

DFID has no plans to introduce new indicators of aid effectiveness. Instead we will work with others, especially through the DAC, to refine and improve existing internationally accepted indicators.

Iraq

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of non-governmental organisations operating in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [180542]

Hilary Benn: There is a large and growing number of emerging Iraqi non-governmental organisations (NGOs). DFID is providing £5 million project support to help with their development. Up to the handover of sovereignty about 1,800 organisations, local and international, had applied to register as NGOs with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Co-operation. DFID has helped to facilitate registration for international NGOs.

The number of international NGOs working in much of Iraq has been low for some months because of security concerns, although a number continue to operate through their Iraqi or regional staff.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with representatives of non-governmental organisations on the security situation in Iraq after 30 June; and if he will make a statement. [180544]

Hilary Benn: DFID maintains close and regular contact with UK-based non-governmental organisations. The security situation in Iraq remains one of their central concerns.

Millennium Development Goals

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* methods, *(b)* data sources and *(c)* data are used for allocating development aid between the alternative channels available to the Department; and how these are used to gauge the effectiveness of each channel in progressing towards the Millennium Development Goal on Poverty. [180588]

Hilary Benn: DFID conducts an annual resource allocation process in which Ministers decide how available resources should be distributed, setting planning figures for the financial years up to the end of the Spending Review period. Resource allocation is considered in the context of strategic priorities, performance against Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets, risk and the DFID's analysis of where aid will have the biggest impact.

DFID has developed a model to inform judgements the allocation of the bilateral aid programme between low-income countries. The model takes into account a number of criteria including poverty, population, and the policy and institutional environment. DFID also takes account of factors such as progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, other donor flows and conflict. DFID is currently considering proposals for a similar model for middle-income countries.

DFID has recently developed and is pilot testing a methodology for assessing the performance of multilateral institutions, focusing on the organisational systems that enable multilateral to achieve results on the ground. This will inform decisions on resource allocation, along with such issues as the agency's importance in contributing to poverty elimination and achieving the Millennium Development Goals and judgements about the outcomes being achieved.

DFID draws on a number of data sources to inform its resource allocation including data produced by the World Bank and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD).

PRISM System

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the PRISM system allows projects to be ranked according to effectiveness in relation to achievement of the millennium development goals on poverty. [180551]

Hilary Benn: DFID's Performance Reporting Information System for Management (PRISM) records a series of Project Information Markers (PIMs) against every eligible project, which links the project's purpose to its contribution towards one or more of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The likely success of each project is also recorded in PRISM using an annual performance rating for purpose and outcomes for all eligible projects. This can be cross-referenced with the PIMs; which means that the projects can be organised by their contribution to the different MDGs and ranked according to their likelihood of success.

Project Risks/Benefits

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the evidential basis is for the statement in the Technical Note to PSA 2003–06 that there is a clear relationship between the level of risk attached to a project and the magnitude of the anticipated benefits. [180555]

Hilary Benn: By their nature, there is an expectation that a higher proportion of low-risk projects will meet some or all of their objectives than is the case with medium or high-risk projects. Evidence from DFID's PRISM system bears this out: in the 12 months to end December 2003, 75 per cent. of low-risk projects were evaluated as successful, compared with 57 per cent. of medium-risk projects and 35 per cent. of high-risk projects.

However, where risks are managed sensibly, high-risk projects can have very high potential benefits, such as making an exceptional contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). High-risk work contributing to the peace process in Nepal and to reducing communal tensions in Indonesia would be two examples here. High risk, high return is commonly achieved with innovative or experimental projects, and even partial success on some high-risk projects will have a high impact on poverty. Examples of successful high-risk projects include: the Africa Private Infrastructure Financing Facility, Acholi Land Conflict Resolution (Uganda) and Guyana Enterprise Privatisation.

Clearly, it does not automatically follow that high risk means high potential return. However, given the nature of the environments in which DFID works, it is important that we do not follow only the safe options. A certain amount of risk-taking is inevitable and essential if DFID is to deliver on our demanding Public Service Agreement targets. In Sierra Leone and Nigeria, for example, a low risk approach would have implied a very low level of engagement.

Resource Allocation

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made against the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Resource Allocation Priorities of January 2003, with specific reference to items 1, 2 and 4 of section 3.1. [180553]

Hilary Benn: DFID has made significant progress towards a resource allocation system that targets countries where aid will have the biggest impact. Resources are matched to objectives and priorities through an annual resource allocation round. This first considers broad priorities and allocates available resources between DFID divisions. Each division then reports on progress against its Directors' Delivery Plans (DDPs) and makes detailed resource allocation proposals. These are assessed to ensure that they set out a credible strategy for achieving Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets and objectives and that progress is being made. Programme allocations are based on assessment of the DDPs and their annual reviews.

In line with the Strategic Review of Resource Allocation Priorities (SRRAP) recommendations a model has been introduced to review country allocations to low-income countries in terms of poverty and policy and institutional performance. The tool is used only to inform resource allocation; the final allocation being subject to a wider set of considerations. DFID is considering extending the SRRAP approach to middle-income countries.

DFID is also developing an objective, evidence based system for assessing and monitoring multilateral effectiveness to inform financial allocations. This focuses on the organisational systems that enable multilateral to achieve results on the ground, including: corporate governance, strategic planning, resource management and operational management. The assessment will inform resource allocation, alongside assessment of the importance of institutions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and of expected performance in achieving development outcomes.

A review of Administration Costs is currently considering options for improving the allocation and management of Administration Costs to ensure that these are as well targeted as possible on achieving priority objectives.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on implementing the recommendations made in section 3.3 of the Strategic Review of Resource Allocation Priorities of January 2003. [180599]

Hilary Benn: As recommended, DFID has developed and is using a test of the relative effectiveness of multilateral to inform financial allocations. The approach focuses on the organisational systems that enable multilateral to achieve results on the grounds. Other factors are also taken into account in making financial allocations, including the size of the agency and the agency's importance in contributing to poverty elimination and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Staff Costs

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the ratio of staff costs

to aid delivered *(a)* directly by the Department, *(b)* through the EU budget, *(c)* through civil society organisations and *(d)* through other multilateral and bilateral channels was in the last year for which figures are available. [180587]

Hilary Benn: The overall ratio of staff costs to programme in 2002–03 was 1.5 per cent. For DFID's European Union Department, which is responsible for aid resources we provide through the EC, the ratio in 2002–03 was 0.07 per cent. For the department responsible for aid provided centrally through UK civil society organisations, the ratio was 0.8 per cent. The ratio for departments dealing with multilateral channels other than the EU was 0.2 per cent., while that for country programmes was 1 per cent. Changes in DFID's Administration Costs from the start of 2003–04 to include costs that were previously chargeable to the programme will increase these ratios; detailed figures are not yet available.

These ratios do not include the staff costs incurred by multilateral and civil society organisations in managing the resources provided by DFID.

Widows

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned on the number of women widowed as a result of conflict. [181084]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not conducted or commissioned research specifically to determine the number of women widowed as a result of conflict. However, the issue of women affected by conflict is important to DFID, and support is given to agencies such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, to address these issues.

CABINET OFFICE

Magistrates (Wirral)

Mr. Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make a statement on the recruitment of magistrates in the Wirral. [180766]

Mr. Alexander: When considering magisterial appointments for the Wirral Bench, I am advised by my Wirral Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace. The procedures on magisterial appointments undertaken by the Duchy Office are the same as those used by the Department for Constitutional Affairs in the remainder of the Country. Regular meetings between the Duchy Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs ensure a continued close working relationship and consistency of approach on magisterial issues.

Public Appointments (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the process is for selection of the High Sheriff in Lancashire. [181109]

Mr. Alexander: As Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, I approve the appointment of the High Sheriff of Lancashire each year. The Lord-Lieutenant for Lancashire, as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, makes a recommendation to me after taking soundings from the local area.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Affordable and Social Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* affordable and *(b)* social housing units were available in rural areas in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority area. [180391]

Keith Hill: Information is not held centrally on the number of affordable housing dwellings, nor does the information available specify whether social housing dwellings are located within rural areas of a local authority.

A table presenting information reported by local authorities in England on the number social housing dwellings at 1 April has been made available in the Library of the House. Figures are presented for local authorities categorised as either "mixed rural" or "deep rural", according to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's classification list.

Brownfield Sites

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list each of the planning applications for development on brownfield land that he or his predecessor has refused since May 1997. [180521]

Keith Hill: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, or his predecessor, has refused 178 called in planning applications or recovered appeals for development involving previously developed land between April 1999 and March 2004. A list of these developments has been made available in the libraries of the House. Comprehensive information on called in applications and recovered appeals is not available for the period May 1997 to March 1999.

Building Control Surveyors

David Taylor: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what procedures are in place to assess the competency of work carried out by building control surveyors; [181085]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the regulatory regime for building control standards; and if he will make a statement; [181093]

(3) how the rate of compliance with the building regulations in the construction of new homes is assessed by his Department. [181096]

Phil Hope: Responsibility for the delivery of competent building control rests with the local authority and approved inspector building control bodies. It is for each building control body to decide on the qualifications and experience of inspectors employed by them. They are encouraged to work within the

framework of best practice established in the Building Control Performance Standards published in 1999 and endorsed by Ministers.

In May 2000 the Building Control Performance Standards Advisory Group was established to keep the Performance Standards under review and to advise on performance indicators, the effective delivery of building control and procedures for the monitoring of all types of building control bodies. Officials of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister continue to play a full part in the Advisory Group.

Further work is currently underway, with the assistance of external advisers, to assist the Advisory Group in the development of a series of performance indicators to assist building control bodies to assess their own service quality, and to develop a means of identifying comparative performance.

David Taylor: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received from the Building Control Standards Advisory Group on the effect of the introduction of competition for building control surveys on the rate of compliance with the building regulations. [181094]

Phil Hope: No recent discussions have taken place with the Building Control Performance Standards Advisory Group nor has the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister received any representations from them. The Group are welcome to raise with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister at any time any matters relating to standards in building control.

David Taylor: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what support his Department provides to the Building Control Standards Advisory Group. [181095]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister provides the venue for meetings of the Advisory Group, sends representatives to its meetings, and is funding work on the development of key performance indicators.

Care Homes

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what regulations apply to residential homes for the elderly in respect of the number of satellite dishes that can be placed onto the side of the home; and if he will make a statement. [181227]

Keith Hill: The regulations for the number of satellite dishes applying to residential homes depends on the physical height of the building. For buildings less than 15 metres (approximately 50 feet) in height, one satellite dish is permitted; for taller buildings, two dishes are permitted.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* the total and *(b)* his Department's funding was for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for financial years 2000–01 and 2001–02; [179305]

(2) what *(a)* the total and *(b)* his Department's funding is projected to be for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for financial year 2005–06; [179306]

(3) what funding plans his Department has for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust in financial years *(a)* 2006–07 and *(b)* 2009–10. [179307]

Yvette Cooper: Funding for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust has been provided as follows:

£ million

	ODPM funding	*Total funding*
2000–01	15.650	20.170
2001–02	23.300	27.852
2002–03	14.996	18.432
2003–04	17.000	20.993
2004–05	17.650	22.589
2005–06	17.650	21.078

The total figures include funding provided by the Scottish Executive, for the Trust in Scotland, the Welsh Assembly for the Trust in Wales and other funding sources.

Decisions by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on funding for the Trust in England beyond March 2006 will be taken in the light of the on-going Spending Review, the Trust's continued good performance and evidence of the beneficial impact of the Trust on the coalfield communities.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* the total and *(b)* his Department's funding was for the National Coalfields Programme in financial years 2003–04 and 2005–06; [179308]

(2) what funding plans his Department has for the National Coalfields Programme in financial years 2006–07 to 2009–10. [179309]

Yvette Cooper: The National Coalfields Programme is funded by Government and delivered by English Partnerships working with the Regional Development Agencies. Actual investment in the programme's sites for 2003–04 and planned investment in subsequent years is as follows:

	£ million
2003–04	46.0
2004–05	54.0
2005–06	80.0
2006–07	75.0
2007–08	50.0
2008–09	25.0
2009–10	15.0

The figures from 2004–05 onwards are for planned gross expenditure. They exclude reinvestment of receipts from the sale of sites, and are subject to on-going review.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* the total and *(b)* his Department's funding was for the Coalfields Enterprise Fund in each financial year since 1999–2000; and what the projected funding is for 2005–06; [179310]

(2) what funding plans his Department has for the Coalfields Enterprise Fund in *(a)* 2006–07 and *(b)* 2009–10. [179311]

Yvette Cooper: The Coalfields Enterprise Fund is a venture capital fund targeted at the former Coalfield areas. The fund is expected to operate for the next 10 years. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister made a one-off investment of £10 million into the fund in 2004–05.

Departmental Advertising Costs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department and its predecessors spent on advertising, marketing and publicity in each year since May 1997, broken down by main subject head. [180363]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. In the financial year 2002–03 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent a total of £3,346,943 on advertising and £3,718,767 on marketing and publicity. In the financial year 2003–04 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent £4,435,533 on advertising, £639,996 on marketing, and £718,898 on publicity. In the financial year 2004–05 the amounts the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has committed to date are £2,686,974 on advertising, £235,441 on marketing and £372,759 on publicity.

Departmental Consultancy Costs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department and its predecessors spent on external consultants and advisers in each year since May 1997, broken down by main subject head. [180365]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 24 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1433W for the expenditure incurred by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister since its creation in May 2002.

The value of spend for the predecessor Department, DTLR is as follows:

	£
2000–01	98,700,000
2001–02	119,022,000

These figures include spend by the former Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Figures for the previous three years and a breakdown by subject head can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure (Entertainment)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his latest estimate is of the amount spent by his Department on official entertainment in each year from 1996–97 to 2004–05. [169010]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created following the machinery of Government changes on 29 May 2002. The figures in the following table show how much the Office spent on official entertainment in 2002–03 and 2003–04. Details of the planned expenditure for 2004–05 are not yet available, but are expected to be on similar lines to earlier years.

Entertainment

	£
2002–03	3,350
2003–04	1,869

All expenditure on official entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in "Government Accounting".

The expenditure figures for the Government Offices and the Office's executive agencies for official entertainment are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Election Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of costs of holding elections *(a)* by all-postal ballot and *(b)* by voting in person at the ballot box. [180339]

Mr. Raynsford: Estimates of the costs of holding elections by voting in person at the ballot box have been made for budgetary purposes in respect of every general election and European Parliamentary election. They have been based on accounts submitted by returning officers in respect of previous such elections. The estimated cost of conducting this year's European Parliamentary election in England and Wales was £57 million, ignoring combination with the local elections. The costs of local elections conducted by voting in person at the ballot box are a matter for local authorities, and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has not estimated them.

So far as all-postal elections are concerned, estimates have been made of the cost of the June 2004 combined elections in the pilot regions. The estimated cost was £23.8 million. One of the objectives of conducting all-postal pilots has been to provide a reliable basis for estimating the costs of future elections conducted on that basis.

European Structural Funds

Mr. Moore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much investment has gone into *(a)* the parliamentary constituency of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders and *(c)* Scotland from European Structural Funds since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [180958]

Mr. Raynsford: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has responsibility for the European Regional Development Fund in England. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Scottish Executive for information relating to European Structural Funds investment in Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale.

Government Office for London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total cost to the Government Office for London was of *(a)* administration and *(b)* disbursements of grants in each of the last five years. [180331]

Yvette Cooper: The cost of administering and disturbing grants could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Government Office for London (GOL) Running Cost (admin) expenditure in total is as follows:

	£ million
1999–2000	16.0
2000–01	13.2
2001–02	13.2
2002–03	14.1
2003–04	16.7

Government Office for London (GOL) Programme expenditure in total is as follows:

	£ million
1999–2000	2,202
2000–01	1,605
2001–02	2,094
2002–03	2,530
2003–04	2,724

The Programme expenditure figures represent the end-year outturn for all Programmes managed by Government Office for London (GOL). In some cases grant payments are issued by the sponsor department e.g. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister but monitored by GOL. These amounts are included in the figures supplied.

Government Office for the East Midlands

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the running costs, including staff salaries, of the Government office for the East Midlands were in each year since 2001; and what the projected costs are for the next three years. [179427]

Yvette Cooper: The running costs of the Government Office for the East Midlands since 2001 have been as follows:

	£
2000–01	7,335,770
2001–02	8,200,800
2002–03	8,835,460
2003–04	10,861,000

The budgeted running costs for 2004–05 are £11,370,090.

The projected allocation for 2005–06 and for the two following years is £11,069,070 based on current information and agreed funding from all Government Office Sponsor Departments. Increased expenditure over years 2000–01 to 2004–05 reflect increases in Departmental representation in the Government Office and, in particular, the increase between years 2002–03 and 2003–04 are as a result of Home Office integration into the Government Office.

Government Office for the North-West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people work in the Government Office for the North West; how many buildings they operate in; and whether the buildings are *(a)* rented and *(b)* owned by the Office. [180687]

Yvette Cooper: Three hundred and ninty five permanent staff work in the Government Office for the North West. 254 are located in City Tower (formerly Sunley Tower), Manchester; 92 in Cunard Building, Liverpool; and 49 staff are seconded to other organisations. Both buildings are rented by the office.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost was of the Government office of the North West in *(a)* administration and *(b)* disbursements of grants in each of the last three years. [180713]

Yvette Cooper: The cost of administering and disbursing grants could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Government Office for the North West (GONW) running cost (admin) expenditure in total is as follows:

	£ million
2001–02	14.5
2002–03	15.5
2003–04	16.8

Government Office for the North West (GONW) programme expenditure in total is as follows:

	£ million
2001–02	1,349
2002–03	1,425
2003–04	1,511

Housing (South-West)

Mr. Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to review his policies affecting the provision of affordable housing in the south-west. [180777]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's sustainable communities plan, published in February 2003, established regional housing boards (RHBs) in each of the nine English regions. The communities plan set out that RHBs would ensure regional housing strategies are co-ordinated with economic and planning strategies, allowing sub-regional approaches to housing problems extending beyond individual local authority boundaries.

Affordable housing is the south-west housing body's number one priority. It announced on 24 March this year how £188.2 million will be invested over the next two years to deliver over 6,000 affordable homes.

The provision of future funding for affordable housing in England is being considered as part of spending review 2004.

Mr. Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the stock in Salisbury District of *(a)* council dwellings, *(b)* housing association dwellings and *(c)* housing association dwellings where the district council had nomination rights was in (i) 1984, (ii) 1994 and (iii) 2004. [180781]

Keith Hill: There were 8,581 council dwellings in Salisbury district at 1 April 1984 and 7,018 council dwellings at 1 April 1994. The figures for 2004 are not

yet available. There were 304 housing association dwellings in Salisbury district at 1 April 1984 and 772 housing association dwellings at 1 April 1994. The figures for 2004 are not yet available. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold information on the number of housing association dwellings where Salisbury district council has nomination rights.

Mr. Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what advice he has given Salisbury district council as the local housing authority on how to increase the quantity of affordable housing. [180782]

Keith Hill: Government Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 (PPG3) requires that local planning authorities should plan to meet the housing requirements of the whole community, including those in need of affordable and special needs housing. The provision of affordable housing is then a local authority responsibility and should be made on the basis of robust local assessments of needs. Where need is clearly demonstrated for affordable housing, this should be taken into account in formulating development plan policies and in deciding planning applications involving housing.

Salisbury district council consulted earlier this year on supplementary planning guidance for affordable housing. Government office for the south-west (GOSW) responded, re-enforcing the need to follow national and local plan policies.

The Government are also consulting on changes to PPG3 (Housing) in order to widen the range of housing opportunity: size, type and affordability. This will underline that the planning system must enable the provision of new homes in the right place (focusing on brownfield sites first) and at the right time to meet planned supply targets.

Mr. Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the role is of the Government office of the south-west in the provision of affordable housing in Salisbury District. [180783]

Keith Hill: The Government office for the south-west (GOSW) is a member of the South West Housing Body (SWHB) and provides secretariat support to the steering group, working group and regional housing forum. Along with partner organisations on the SWHB, GOSW will be heavily involved in drawing up the SW Regional Housing Strategy 2004. This document will have an influence on local policies on housing provision (including affordable housing).

GOSW staff also assess all local authority housing strategies against standard fit for purpose criteria. The fit for purpose criteria require local authorities to ensure that provision of affordable housing is made on the basis of robust local assessments of needs. A demonstrable lack of affordable housing to meet local needs is a material planning consideration, which should be taken into account in formulating development plan policies and in deciding planning applications involving housing. Government have issued guidance on how to undertake local housing needs and market assessments.

The Housing Corporation, who are also a member of each regional housing board (RHB) and are responsible for investing public money in housing associations, have a much more involved and direct role in the provision of affordable housing and work closely with each individual local authority and their partner housing associations.

Housing (North-West)

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what research his Department has conducted into the availability of housing in areas of economic expansion in the North-West; [179683]

(2) what monitoring of building moratoriums in the North West is carried out by the Government Office for the North West. [179771]

Keith Hill: Housing provision will be one of the issues that will be examined during the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West.

Mental Health

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the recent report on social exclusion and mental health, with particular reference to discussions he has had with the Department of Health on greater support for people with mental health problems. [180392]

Yvette Cooper: The Social Exclusion Unit report "Mental Health and Social Exclusion" was published on 14 June 2004. For the first time, action will be taken across Government to address the full range of issues affecting people with mental health problems. Rather than focusing solely on medical needs, the report addresses stigma and discrimination, employment, education, housing, family needs and community participation. At national level, over 20 Government Departments, agencies and other national organisations will be involved in driving forward the report's action plan in six key areas:

stigma and discrimination—a sustained programme to challenge negative attitudes and promote awareness of people's rights;

the role of health and social care in tackling social exclusion—implementing evidence-based practice in vocational services and enabling reintegration into the community;

employment—giving people with mental health problems a real chance of sustained paid work reflecting their skills and experience;

taking part in the local community—enabling people to lead fulfilling lives the way they choose;

getting the basics right—access to decent homes, financial advice and transport; and

making it happen—clear arrangements for leading this programme and maintaining momentum.

Development of the report was overseen by a Ministerial Group jointly chaired by my right hon. and noble Friend Lord Rooker and my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton). The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department of Health have worked closely together throughout the project, and in partnership with other Departments. The report's action plan includes commitments from the Department of Health to tackle social exclusion through:

a sustained programme to challenge discrimination against people with mental health problems set out in "From Here to Equality" launched by Rosie Winterton on 23 June 2004;

modernised vocational services which reflect evidence-based practice and provide a choice of services to meet diverse needs;

working towards access to an employment adviser and social support for everyone with severe mental health problems;

redesigning mental health day services to promote social inclusion;

improved access to vocational and social support in primary care;

strengthened training on social inclusion for health and social care professionals; and

measures to tackle inequalities in access to health services.

Implementation of the Social Exclusion Unit report will be led by a cross-government team located within the Department of Health's National Institute for Mental Health in England.

Parish Councils

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the *(a)* average, *(b)* mean and *(c)* median values are for numbers of electors represented by parish councils in England. [180495]

Mr. Raynsford: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, research undertaken in 1991 for the then Department of Environment sampled 1,000 parish councils in England. The research found that the 'typical' or average parish council represented 1,700 people.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what public consultation he requires to be undertaken prior to the establishment of a new parish council. [180509]

Mr. Raynsford: Procedures to be followed by district councils when consulting on reviews of parish arrangements in their area including the establishment of a new parish and parish council are contained in the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

District councils must take steps they consider sufficient to inform interested parties, both in parished and unparished areas, of reviews and proposals. This may include advertising in the local press, notices in local libraries and, particularly in smaller areas, an individual notification to affected households.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what criteria are considered in the decision to establish a new parish council. [180510]

Mr. Raynsford: The criteria for district councils to follow when considering the establishment of a new parish and parish council either by district review or public petition is contained in the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, section 22 (2) which states that regard must be had to the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and to secure effective and convenient local government.

Published guidance (Environment Circular 11/97) explaining the criteria to be followed for the establishment of a new parish and parish council is available from the Stationery Office.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will set out the procedures to be followed in the election of parish councils. [180511]

Mr. Raynsford: The election of parish councils is conducted in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts 1983 and 1985, and the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 1986.

Parish council elections are held every four years at the same time as ordinary district council elections or, where districts elect their councillors each year by thirds, in the same year as the election for the district ward in which the parish is situated.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the funding *(a)* mechanisms and *(b)* levels for (i) the administration and (ii) the functions of parish councils in England. [180512]

Mr. Raynsford: The main source of a parish council's income is its precept on the district council. The level of precept is at the discretion of the parish, although Government have the power to cap the precept in exceptional circumstances. The precept is 'added' to the total council tax bill for those living within the parish and is collected by the district council on behalf of the parish council.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he set out the powers and responsibilities of parish councils. [180513]

Mr. Raynsford: As a tier of local government, parish council's functions are set out in statute. Tabled as follows are lists of parish council's main statutory functions.

Appendix 1: List of parish council powers

Function	*Powers and duties*	*Statutory provisions*
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demanded unsatisfied	Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908, ss. 23, 26, and 42
Baths and washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936, ss. 221, 222, 223 and 227
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain Power to provide Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972, s. 214; Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s. 1 Local Government Act 1972, s. 215(6)
Bus shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s. 4
Bye-laws	Power to make bye-laws in regard to pleasure grounds Cycle Parks Baths and Washhouses Open spaces and burial grounds Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1875, s. 164 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s. 57(7) Public Health Act 1936, s. 223 Open Spaces Act 1906, s. 15 Public Health Act 1936, s. 198

Appendix 1: List of parish council powers

Function	*Powers and duties*	*Statutory provisions*
Charities	Duty to receive accounts of parochial charities	Charities Act 1960, s. 32
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 2
Closed churchyards	Powers as to maintenance	Local Government Act 1972, s. 215
Commons and common pastures	Powers in relation to enclosure, as to regulation and management, and as to providing common pasture	Enclosure Act 1845; Local Government Act 1894, s. 8(4); Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s. 34
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities	Local Government Act 1972, s. 144
Community centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s. 19
Crime prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s. 31
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches	Public Health Act 1936, s. 260
Education	Right to appoint school governors	Education (No. 2) Act 1986, s. 4
Entertainment and the Arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts	Local Government Act 1972, s. 145
General powers	Power to spend up to 5 per elector each year on items that are of 'direct benefit to the area'	Local Government Act 1972, s. 137
Gifts	Power to accept	Local Government Act 1972, s. 139
Highways	Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridle-ways	Highways Act 1980, ss. 43, 50 Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 3; Highways Act 1980, s. 301 Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss. 57, 63 Highways Act 1980, ss. 30, 72 Parish Councils Act 1957, s. 1 Highways Act 1980, ss. 47,116 Highways Act 1980, s. 130 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s. 72 Highways Act 1980, s. 96
	Power to light roads and public places	
	Provision of litter bins	
	Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motor-cycles	
	Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening	
	Power to provide roadside seats and shelters, and omnibus shelters	
	Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway	
	Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes	
	Power to provide traffic signs and other notices	
	Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges	
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment	Trustee Investments Act 1961, s. 11
Land	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of Power to accept gifts of land	Local Government Act 1972, ss. 124, 126, 127 Local Government Act 1972, s. 139
Litter	Provision of receptacles	Litter Act 1983, ss. 5,6
Lotteries	Powers to promote	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, s. 7
Mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936, s. 198
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive ditches	Public Health Act 1936, s. 260
Open spaces	Power to acquire land and maintain	Public Health Act 1875, s. 164 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9 and 10
Parish property and documents	Powers to direct as to their custody	Local Government Act 1972, s. 226
Postal and telecommunications facilities	Power to pay the Post Office, British Telecommunications or any other public telecommunications operator any loss sustained providing post or telegraph office or telecommunication facilities	Post Office Act 1953, s. 51; Telecommunications Act 1984, s. 97
Public buildings and village hall	Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies	Local Government Act 1972, s. 133
Public conveniences	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936, s. 87
Recreation	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them	Public Health Act 1875, s. 164 Local Government Act 1972, Sched. 14 para. 27 Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 s. 44 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9 and 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s. 19 Public Health Act 1961, s. 54
	Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps	
	Provision of boating pools	
Town and country planning	Right to be notified of planning applications	Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched.1, para. 8
Tourism	Power to contribute to organisations encouraging	Local Government Act 1972, s. 144
Traffic calming	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s. 30
Transport	Powers to spend money on community transport schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s. 26–29
War memorials	Power to maintain, repairs, protect and adapt war memorials	War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s. 1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s. 133
Water Supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom	Public Health Act 1936, s. 1 25

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he set out the procedures to be followed to establish a new parish council. [180514]

Mr. Raynsford: There are two ways in which a new parish and parish council can be established. The procedures for this are set out in the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

Section 9 of the Act provides that a district council may conduct a review of parish arrangements in their area and make recommendations to the Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister for the establishment of a new parish.

Section 11 of the Act provides for a petition to be raised for the creation of a new parish in a previously unparished area. For a petition to be considered valid it must be signed by not less than 250 or 10 per cent. of local government electors in the area of the proposed parish, whichever is the greater.

The Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister may by Order give effect to (with or without modifications), or may reject, the recommendations made to him under section 9 or a petition for a new parish submitted under section 11. New parishes are constituted on 1 April of any year with the elections to the parish council being held on the ordinary day of election after that date.

Section 16 of the Act requires parishes with over 200 local government electors to establish a separate parish council.

Published guidance (Environment Circular 11/97) setting out the procedures to be followed for the establishment of new parishes and parish councils is available from the Stationery Office.

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many parish councils there are in England; and if he will list them. [180586]

Mr. Raynsford: There are about 8,700 parish and town councils in England. Volume Two of the latest edition of the Municipal Year Book lists parishes under the relevant county and district council area.

Planning

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what measures have been introduced to verify the claims of local authorities for planning delivery grant. [180982]

Keith Hill: In 2004–05 Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) allocations to local authorities consisted of the following elements; development control performance, plan making performance, housing delivery performance, location of Enterprise Areas.

The development control element of the grant is based on local authority performance in determining planning applications, recorded as Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 109. There is an annual independent audit of BVPI 109 overseen by the Audit Commission. Where there are any doubts about the reliability of the information this will be investigated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The plan making element of the grant is allocated on the basis of information provided by local authorities. These responses are then verified by the relevant Government Office.

The housing delivery element of the grant is allocated on the basis of the annual average delivery of additional dwellings net of demolitions and other losses, based on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's independent analysis of returns from local authorities and Regional Planning Body data.

The allocation on account of Enterprise Areas within an authority's boundary is a factual allocation and is based on information held by Planning and Land Use Statistics division of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Abatements are made where local authorities' performance at appeal is poor. The information to determine this is provided by the Planning Inspectorate.

In cases where there are concerns about the accuracy of information used for grant allocation, 10 per cent. of the allocation may be withheld, pending further investigation. Where information is subsequently shown to be fraudulent or erroneous the repayment of grant paid may be required.

John McDonnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities have been found to have failed to comply with the procedures established for the award of planning delivery grant. [180983]

Keith Hill: One local authority notified the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that the information used to allocate the authority's award for plan making performance was incorrect. This was because of an administrative error by the authority. Following this notification the authority's entitlement for plan making was re-calculated.

In 2002–03, the most recent year for which figures are available 32 local planning authorities BVPI 109 returns were qualified by the auditor. In these cases the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has withheld 10 per cent. of any Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) allocation made on account of development control performance pending further investigation. Authorities have been asked to explain the reason for the qualification, what they have done to address the identified problem and to provide an assessment of the likely impact of the identified problem on submitted performance statistics. Authorities have been informed that this process could lead to payment, in part or in full, of any withheld grant or to my demanding repayment, in part or in full of any grant paid on account of development control performance. It would not be appropriate to name the authorities involved as the investigation is ongoing. It is anticipated that this process will be completed and final decisions taken on authorities' grant entitlement by the end of the summer.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of local authorities on speculative land plots; [181315]

(2) whether his Department collects central records of Article 4 notices issued by local authorities to remove land development rights; and if he will make a statement; [181322]

(3) what his Department's policy is on speculative land plots; [181325]

(4) what representations he has received on speculative land plots; and if he will make a statement. [181326]

Keith Hill: Officials of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister held a meeting with representatives of interested local authorities on 31 October last year, and another on 11 June, to discuss their concerns. The effectiveness of existing controls, such as Article 4 directions, and possible further controls were considered. Records on Article 4 directions are not held centrally.

I refer the hon. Member to the written statement given on 19 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 2WS on the subdivision of agricultural land. An advice letter to Chief Planning Officers was also issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on that day.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has received a number of letters on this topic. They relate mainly to the unsightly visual consequences of the subdivision of fields.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 366W, on regional assemblies, what the total cost of the entertainment of stakeholders, journalists and other non-governmental individuals undertaken as part of the 'Your Say' information campaign on elected regional assemblies is; and what the value is of each transaction made under the budget allotted to other expenses. [181457]

Mr. Raynsford: I will write to the hon. Member once the information is collated and I will make a copy of the letter available in the Library of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers

Mr. Tynan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of proposals for paying a wage for carers. [180556]

Maria Eagle: The answer the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the member for Gravesham (Mr. Pond) gave my hon. Friend on 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1019W, explained the Government's position on support for carers. We have no plans to introduce a carer's wage.

Job Seekers (Coventry)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken to promote job seeking services in the constituency of Coventry, South since 1997. [180353]

Jane Kennedy: Jobcentre Plus is working with local community organisations and local employers to promote and increase job seeking services in Coventry, South. These local initiatives work alongside and add value to our national programmes like New Deal.

The New Deal has clearly been a great success—helping well over a million people to find work nationally, including over 1,700 people in Coventry, South. We are building on this foundation of success, opening up more opportunities for people to find work. The New Deal has helped reduce youth unemployment, long-term unemployment and the number of lone parents dependent on benefits.

The development of Jobcentre Plus is building on the high quality service already provided by social security offices and Jobcentres by delivering a single, integrated service to all people of working age, with a clear focus on work.

Jobcentre Plus provides high quality services to employers, helping them to fill job vacancies quickly and effectively with well-prepared and motivated employees.

Local initiatives include progress2work, helping people with drug problems to overcome them and lead healthy and productive lives and making sure that local drug treatment and local employment services are joined up effectively. The Step Up pilot programme, covering a number of wards in Coventry, South, is working to help the long-term unemployed move from benefits into work and the local Outreach service is using innovative and community based ways to help ethnic minority people overcome the barriers they face in the labour market.

Jobcentre Plus is also working with the new Arena Development to ensure that the 3,500 new job opportunities it is creating are being made available to local communities. For example, the Arena Jobs-bus, a feature of this partnership initiative, has visited locations in the constituency, such as St. Michaels, Canley and Westwood to bring information on the jobs available to peoples doorsteps.

Liaison with local employers has resulted in the establishment of the Construction Employment Unit. Based at Tile Hill Jobcentre Plus, it offers unemployed people the chance to work in the local construction industry and is providing paid training.

As a result of these initiatives, the employment level in Coventry, South has risen by 11.4 per cent. since 1997 and the claimant unemployment level has dropped by 37 per cent. over the same period.

Pension Credit

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of *(a)* pensioners in Scotland and *(b)* eligible pensioners in Scotland have taken up (i) the guarantee credit and (ii) the savings credit elements of pension credit; [181281]

(2) how many pensioners in Scotland have taken up their entitlement to *(a)* the guarantee credit and *(b)* the savings credit elements of pension credit. [181283]

Malcolm Wicks: Reliable estimates of the number or proportion of pensioners eligible for the guarantee credit or savings credit elements of pension credit are not available for Government Office regions.

Information on the numbers of people in Scotland receiving guarantee credit and savings credit at 31 May 2004 is given in the table.

Pension credit recipients in Scotland: 31 May 2004

	All	Guarantee credit only	Guarantee credit and savings credit	Savings credit only
Households	259,370	71,410	139,375	48,590
Individuals	309,935	86,640	158,370	64,930
Individuals as a percentage of population aged 60 and over	28.8	8.1	14.7	6.0

Notes:
1. Figures other than percentages are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Individual recipients include a small number of partners under age 60.
3. Percentages have been calculated using the ONS mid 2002 population estimates for persons aged 60 and over living in Scotland.

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level of expenditure on pension credit in financial years *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06 and *(c)* 2006–07 in (i) the UK and (ii) Scotland. [181282]

Malcolm Wicks: The available information is in the table.

£ million

Pension Credit[1]	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07
Great Britain[2]	5,973	6,337	6,795
Scotland[3]	596	632	695

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest million.
[2] Figures are for Great Britain, and are consistent with Budget 2004 forecasts to 2005–06. Figures for 2006–07 are projections consistent with the long term projections published at Budget 2004, and assume the continuation of current policy. Information for Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.
[3] Figures for Scotland are derived from information used to inform the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, 2004, and are not explicitly forecast. The figures assume that the future proportion of expenditure attributable to Scotland is the same as for minimum income guarantee in 2002–03, although it is likely that the changes associated with pension credit do not have a uniform impact across Great Britain.

Pension Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why Mr. G. Waghorn of Ashburton has not received retirement pension since 25 March; and for what reason no reply has been sent to his letters to the Pension Service. [180635]

Mr. Pond: Following the hon. Gentleman's letter to the Pension Service dated 1 June the matter has been resolved. The Pension Service wrote to the hon. Member on 24 June with a full explanation of the circumstances in this case.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

British Council (Russia)

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's response to the raids of 21 May on the offices of the British Council in Russia; what requests the Government has received from the Russian authorities in relation to the *(a)* current and *(b)* future operations of the British Council in Russia; and what documentation the Government (i) has submitted and (ii) will be submitting to the Russian authorities. [180077]

Mr. Rammell: The Government views with concern the recent actions taken by the Russian Ministry of the Interior in respect of the British Council's operations in Russia. We have made these concerns clear to the Russian authorities at all levels.

The Russian Ministry of the Interior has requested the provision of accounting documentation in relation to the teaching and examination activities of the British Council. In response, we submitted a Diplomatic Note, including a financial annex, which provided information about the British Council and its work in Russia to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 June.

We have proposed that this issue be resolved through early signature of a Cultural Centres Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. A draft agreement was in fact reached in 2001, since when we have been waiting for a decision from the Russian Government to proceed with signature. Once this Agreement comes into effect, we believe all questions about the British Council's status and operations in Russia can be rapidly resolved.

Cyprus

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the offer to return land from the Sovereign Base Area in Cyprus to the Cyprus Government; which area was involved; what size the area is; and whether the Ministry of Defence was involved in the discussions. [180953]

Mr. MacShane: All aspects of the Government's decision to invite the UN Secretary-General to include part of the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) in his proposals for territorial adjustment, as part of his overall settlement plan, were communicated to the House by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in his statements on 25 February 2003, *Official Report*, columns 13–14WS and 1 April 2004 *Official Report*, columns 107–10WS. The offer comprised approximately half of the SBAs and was mainly arable land. This was set out in the published final version of the Annan Plan. As the Foreign Secretary made clear to the House in his written statement on 26 April 2004, *Official Report*, columns 44–46WS, the UK's territorial offer was an integral part of the Annan Plan itself. Both were rendered null and void by the outcome of the referenda in Cyprus. But the Government would look favourably at renewing the offer in the event that the Annan Plan were picked up again as the basis for a future settlement.

EU Constitution

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the effect of the inclusion of Article III-157(3) in the final text of the EU Constitution. [181121]

Mr. MacShane: Article III-157 (3) of the draft Constitutional Treaty requires that any proposal in the field of energy that is primarily fiscal in nature must be agreed by unanimity in the Council. This is consistent with the Government's commitment to ensure that unanimity is retained for tax matters decided at the EU level, as set out in the White Paper on the intergovernmental conference (Cm5934).

EU Presidency

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will publish the presidency proposals to the European intergovernmental conference documents *(a)* CIG 79/04 and *(b)* 80/04. [180737]

Mr. MacShane: We have placed these documents in the Library of the House, and they are also available on the presidency's website: www.eu2004.ie They are, however, entirely superseded by the subsequent presidency document CIG 86/04 which is likewise in the Library of the House and on the presidency website.

Indonesia

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the arrests of Malik Mahmud and Zaini Abdullah on the activities of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in Indonesia; and if he will make a statement. [180508]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 15 June Swedish police arrested Malik Mahmud and Zaini Abdullah under suspicion of crimes violating international law, but released them on 18 June after the judge determined that there was not enough evidence to lay charges. We do not know if the arrests have had an impact on the activities of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). With our EU partners we continue to urge both the Indonesian Government and the GAM to return to the negotiating table as soon as possible, as only negotiation will offer a long-term solution to the conflict in Aceh.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of civilians killed in Aceh since May 2003; and if he will make a statement. [180545]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are no official figures for the numbers of civilians killed in Aceh. Some NGOs/observers estimate the number of civilians killed to be around 1,000. The Indonesian Government's official casualty figures during the operations in Aceh since May 2003 are 2000 Free Aceh Movement casualties and 55 security forces casualties. However, all these figures are difficult to verify.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of Human Rights Watch's claims of extra-judicial killings, kidnapping and torture by the Indonesian Armed Forces in Aceh; and if he will make a statement. [180546]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are aware of the Human Rights Watch report (issued in December 2003), which was the result of an investigation into reports of human rights abuses from Acehnese refugees in Malaysia. We take these reports seriously. We have raised Aceh with the Indonesian Government on a number of occasions, most recently on 9 June when the British Ambassador to Indonesia raised it with the Indonesian Minister for Politics and Security.

There continues to be reports of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Indonesian armed forces in Aceh. The Indonesian military continues to court-martial soldiers arrested on suspicion of human rights abuses. The Indonesian military are now training soldiers in human rights prior to deployment and have established a joint military and civilian police unit to investigate all shootings involving the Indonesian military.

The security situation in towns and cities in Aceh is much improved since the Human Rights Watch report was issued. Martial law has been lifted and Aceh has been returned to civilian control. We continue to monitor the human rights situation in Aceh closely.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the proposed special committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency dedicated to safeguards verification, following the G-8 agreement at the Sea Island summit on nuclear safeguards and proliferation controls; and what additional resources the United Kingdom has earmarked in support of the proposed committee. [180608]

Mr. MacShane: At the Sea Island summit, the G-8 agreed to work together to establish a Special Committee of the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which would be tasked to provide advice on safeguards and verification. The Government believe that such a committee could play a valuable role in investigating possible ways of strengthening the capability of the IAEA to ensure that nations are compliant with their safeguards obligations. The establishment of such a committee is a decision for the IAEA board, and the UK will play an active role in negotiations on its mandate and funding. A decision on the allocation of UK resources will be made once these negotiations are complete.

Israel

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* conditions and *(b)* practices in prison facilities in (i) Israel and (ii) Israeli controlled territories; and if he will make a statement. [180507]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not carried out an assessment of the conditions and practices in Israeli prison facilities. However, various NGOs, the Israeli state comptroller and the ICRC have. The ICRC regularly visits prisons and raises issues with the Israeli Government: further details of the work of ICRC can be found on their website at www.icrc.org.

Consular staff regularly visit British citizens who are in Israeli prisons. Where the UK has humanitarian and human rights concerns we raise them with the Israeli Government. We did so in the specific case of Mordechai Vanunu.

Iran

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* representatives of the UK Government have had with counterparts in (i) Germany and (ii) France on Iran's co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency; and if he will make a statement. [180547]

Mr. MacShane: In the weeks leading up to the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Governors at which the latest Resolution on Iran was adopted, Ministers and senior officials were regularly engaged in discussion of Iran with their French and German counterparts. The Resolution itself, adopted unanimously by the IAEA Board of Governors on 18 June, was jointly drafted by senior officials of the UK, French and German Governments.

The issue was also discussed in some depth at the recent G8 Summit at Sea Island.

United States

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his role as Chair of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Relations with the USA. [181278]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of DOP(UK/US), the ministerial committee on relations with the United States, including its membership and terms of reference, are available on the Cabinet Office website at www.cabinet-office.gov.uk and in the Library of the House.

Sudan

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the UN special rapporteur on executions' statement of 13 June regarding the integration of Janjaweed members into the regular armed forces of Sudan and the Popular Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement. [179745]

Mr. Mullin: We welcome President Bashir's announcement of 18 June of his intention to disarm all outlaws, Janjaweed and armed militias in Darfur. We have consistently urged the Sudanese Government to act quickly to rein in the Janjaweed and are encouraging them to translate their recent statement into action. We have raised concern that reintegrating Janjaweed members into the regular armed forces will not help allay the fears of the affected civilians or encourage the IDPs to return home.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the proposals of the Government of Sudan to neutralise their Janjaweed militia and on whether that proposal is being delivered. [180730]

Mr. Mullin: We welcome President Bashir's announcement of 18 June of his intention to disarm all outlaws, Janjaweed and armed militias in Darfur. We have consistently urged the Sudanese Government to act quickly to rein in the Janjaweed and are encouraging them to translate their recent statement into action.

UK Passport Holders

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK passport holders died abroad in *(a)* 1997–98 and *(b)* 1998–99, broken down by country. [180396]

Mr. Mullin: British posts overseas are not necessarily notified of the death of a British passport holder. As a result the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold comprehensive details on the deaths of all British Citizens overseas during the years in question. However, our records show that we were notified of the deaths of 1,827 British Citizens in 1997–98 and of 2,020 British Citizens in 1998–99.

To provide a break down of how many British passport holders died overseas in 1997–98 and 1998–99 by country could only be provided at disproportionate costs. However, for the 1997–98 period, the largest numbers of British Citizen deaths abroad were in Spain (405), followed by France (84) and the USA (72). For 1998–99, the largest numbers of British Citizen deaths abroad were in Spain (558), followed by Germany (265) and France (90).

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Teachers (Abuse Allegations)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what sanctions are available against individuals who falsely accuse teachers of sexual abuse; [180013]

(2) whether teachers found innocent of sexual abuse allegations are able to sue the complainant for damages. [179999]

Mr. Miliband: Anyone who makes false statements in evidence in court proceedings may be liable to be charged with an offence of perjury. A pupil who makes false allegations against a teacher, or other member of school staff, may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, and exclusion may be appropriate in some circumstances. Teachers also have the same right as anyone else to sue for damages for defamation.

Bicton College

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans his Department has to encourage the Learning and Skills Council to pay all funding owing to Bicton College. [180926]

Alan Johnson: We have recently agreed to add £130 million to the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) budget to enable allocations for 2004–05 to be kept on track for all Further Education colleges that are performing to target. The details and timings of payments from the LSC to colleges are operational matters and the responsibility of the LSC. Mark

Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support the Learning and Skills Council is giving to the management of Bicton College in achieving its full funding entitlement. [180928]

Alan Johnson: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Allocating funding to individual colleges and determining the level of support for colleges' managers to assist them achieve agreed plans is an operational matter and the responsibility of the LSC. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Civil Service (Relocation)

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the west Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180183]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that the Chief Secretary to the Treasury gave on Tuesday 22 June regarding the outcomes of the Lyons Review.

I am pleased to report that my Department has a good record on location outside the south east, with the majority (70 per cent.) of posts in DfES and its partners already outside London and the south east. My Department made proposals, contained in the Lyons Report, to review the locations of our non-departmental public bodies in London. We will also look at the scope for relocation of our own functions as part of our departmental change programme.

Dyslexia

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many undiagnosed dyslexic children he estimates there are in Oxfordshire. [180529]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Education Bodies (Staffing)

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the full-time equivalent headcount of the *(a)* Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, *(b)* Higher Education Statistics Agency, *(c)* Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, *(d)* Learning and Skills Council, *(e)* University for Industry and *(f)* Learn Direct was in each year since 1997; and how much funding was allocated to each body in each year. [178207]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: The information requested is provided as follows.

The Learning and Skills Council became operational in 2001 and University for Industry in 1999.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency is a non-profit making company funded from the publicly funded HE institutions in the UK. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity funded by a capitation fee from institutions, by applicant fees and by marketing services for higher education. They do not directly receive any public funding.

Information for the University for Industry includes head office and regional staff engaged with the learndirect Information and Advice Service (IAS). Ufl also contracts out IAS services to three companies, but these are not included.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

	Funding (£ million)	*Full-time equivalent staff numbers*
1997–98	32.6	n/a
1998–99	54.8	n/a
1999–2000	58.3	n/a
2000–01	59.7	n/a
2001–02	71.2	n/a
2002–03	77.8	578
2003–04	81.7	525
2004–05	135.8	522

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

	Full-time equivalent staff numbers
1997/98	35
1998/99	38
1999/2000	41
2000/01	41
2001/02	44
2002/03	44
2003/04	45

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

	Full-time equivalent staff numbers
1997/98	301
1998/99	300
1999/2000	310
2000/01	317
2001/02	336
2002/03	359
2003/04	320

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

	Funding (£ million)	*Full-time equivalent staff numbers*
2001/02	5,391.3	4,427
2002/03	7,475.9	4,592
2003/04	8,366.7	4,057
2004/05	8,692.0	3,947

University for Industry (Ufl)

	Funding (£ million)	*Full-time equivalent staff numbers*
1999/2000	41.8	97
2000/01	58.2	194
2001/02	56.7	261
2002/03	50.2	309
2003/04	47.0	354
2004/05	44.0	356

Notes:

1. Funding figures from 1997–98 to 2002–03 are final expenditure in each year. 2003–04 covers latest forecast expenditure and 2004–05 latest planned expenditure.

2. Information is for financial years (April to March) apart from HESA and UCAS which operate on academic years (August to July).

3. For QCA, full-time equivalent staff numbers are not available before 2002–03.

4. Full-time equivalent staff numbers for HESA, UCAS and UfI are the average for the year. For UCAS, 2002/03 and 2003/04 figures are staff in post as at June each year.

5. Full-time equivalent staff numbers for QCA and LSC are staff in post at 31 March each year and 31 May in 2004–05.

Education Costs (London)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost of education was per pupil in each London borough in the most recent year for which figures are available. [169999]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Net current expenditure per pupil in 2002–03

£

LEA name	*Primary education*	*Secondary education*
Barking and Dagenham	3,350	4,510
Barnet	3,160	3,960
Bexley	2,850	3,460
Brent	3,230	4,330
Bromley	2,910	3,540
Camden	4,490	5,860
Croydon	3,030	3,820
Ealing	3,220	4,110
Enfield	3,130	4,070
Greenwich	3,660	5,030
Hackney	4,240	5,190
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,710	4,600
Haringey	3,670	4,950
Harrow	3,280	4,020
Havering	2,740	3,810
Hillingdon	2,790	3,840
Hounslow	3,500	4,480
Islington	3,720	5,540
Kensington and Chelsea	4,400	5,500
Kingston-upon-Thames	2,970	3,550
Lambeth	4,010	5,370
Lewisham	3,580	4,680
Merton	3,650	4,280
Newham	3,440	4,690
Redbridge	2,910	3,840
Richmond-upon-Thames	3,420	4,570
Southwark	4,060	5,370
Sutton	2,820	3,490
Tower Hamlets	4,690	5,800
Waltham Forest	3,340	4,320
Wandsworth	3,740	2,660
Westminster	4,290	5,410

Notes:

1. The financial data is taken from local education authorities' Section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DfES. Section 52 is collected at local education authority level and as such the figures are provided for all London LEAs. Data is subject to change by the LEA. Cash figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Expenditure per pupil includes expenditure within schools and also that incurred centrally by the LEA. Figures also include an estimated apportionment of LEA expenditure based on pupil numbers—this is due to the change in the way data was collected. Categories were aligned with the Consistent Financial Reporting framework and the spending by LEAs was no longer split by school sector.

3. Pupil data are drawn from the Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

Free Learning (Adults)

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many adults he expects to *(a)* be eligible for and *(b)* undertake free learning to help them achieve a level 2 qualification. [180709]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We estimate that up to 9.4 million people may be potentially eligible for the new level 2 entitlement to free tuition that we announced in our Skills Strategy White Paper, "21st Century Skills". This is the number of people, of working age, who are in the workforce or economically inactive and who lack a foundation of employability skills equivalent to a full level 2 NVQ or five good GCSEs.

From September 2004 the level 2 entitlement will be trialled as an integral part of a coherent offer of support for unskilled and low-skilled adults in the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) north east and south east regions. We will use the regional trials to assess demand for and take up of this offer, and this will inform how we manage its introduction nationally. This prioritisation of the needs of unskilled and low skilled adults will contribute to the Department's ambition to reduce the number of adults who lack a level 2 qualification by 40 per cent. by 2010.

Healthy Eating

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what analysis his Department has carried out of the impact of healthy eating on children's behaviour. [181101]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: The Secretary of State for Education and Skills has not carried out analysis of the impact of healthy eating on children's behaviour.

Higher Education

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time undergraduate students were in higher education in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) under 25, (ii) 25 to 29, (iii) 30 to 34, (iv) 35 to 39, (v) 40 to 44, (vi) 50 to 54, (vii) 55 to 59, (viii) 60 to 64, (ix) 65 to 69 and (x) 70 years or above age groups. [181110]

Alan Johnson: The available information is given in the table.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate students at English HE and FE institutions, 1997/98 to 2002/03

Age	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03[1]
Under 25	716,405	732,485	741,235	750,040	767,225	795,055
25 to 29	66,315	62,115	56,415	53,315	52,640	54,175
30 to 34	38,055	35,935	32,400	31,035	30,910	31,630
35 to 39	25,365	24,325	22,525	22,110	23,315	24,505
40 to 44	14,510	13,910	13,110	13,175	14,160	15,475
45 to 49	7,605	7,150	6,400	6,260	6,815	7,410
50 to 54	3,340	3,115	2,815	2,845	3,020	3,185
55 to 59	1,075	1,055	915	870	970	1,195
60 to 64	525	490	470	450	435	440
65 to 69	240	245	220	200	240	240
70 and over	295	180	155	135	140	160
Unknown	2,810	950	750	470	410	365
Total	876,540	881,940	877,410	880,910	900,285	933,840

[1] Based upon 2001/02 figures for HE in FE institutions as figures for 2002/03 are not yet available.

Note:
Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Learning Skills Council (LSC)

Table 2: Part-time undergraduate students at English HE and FE institutions, 1997/98 to 2002/03

Age	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03[1]
Under 25	70,175	73,260	76,000	81,410	82,020	89,180
25 to 29	72,325	73,060	70,265	70,370	66,980	72,065
30 to 34	73,475	75,685	75,010	75,330	73,785	77,920
35 to 39	66,220	69,710	71,485	74,965	76,345	80,435
40 to 44	51,150	53,870	55,990	59,250	62,235	66,605
45 to 49	39,020	39,265	39,930	41,535	43,535	46,700
50 to 54	25,770	27,435	28,535	29,925	30,520	30,480
55 to 59	13,070	13,735	14,575	15,835	16,830	19,030
60 to 64	11,005	11,005	10,930	11,135	10,960	11,070
65 to 69	9,150	8,830	8,620	8,660	8,650	8,320
70 and over	9,335	9,355	8,955	9,625	9,805	9,710
Unknown	9,415	7,185	7,260	8,115	7,300	9,025
Total	450,115	462,400	467,560	486,150	488,970	520,535

[1] Based upon 2001/02 figures for HE in FE institutions as figures for 2002/03 are not yet available.

Note:
Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and Learning Skills Council (LSC).

Land-based Education

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans his Department has to support colleges involved in the land-based industries. [180927]

Alan Johnson: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As a result of the 2002 Spending Review, total funding for the further education sector is set to rise by over £1 billion in the three years up to 2005–06, when compared to 2002–03. It is for the LSC to agree funding and plans with individual colleges, including those involved in the land-based industries, based on consideration of priorities and the needs of learners and employers.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what financial support his Department provides to over-19 year olds engaged in full-time land-based education programmes at further education colleges. [180930]

Alan Johnson: My Department makes available Learner Support Funds for students of all ages, via the Learning and Skills Council, to meet the assessed needs of students in all programmes. The Learning and Skills Council also makes a specific allocation of funds to colleges providing for land based and art and design students for their residential costs. The latest figures we hold show that £1.9 million was spent on these for students of 19+ in the academic year 2002–03.

Learning and Skills Councils

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance on criteria for selection he has provided to local learning and skills councils for the provision of free learning for any adult who does not have skills for employability to help them achieve a level 2 qualification; and if he will make a statement. [180708]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: DfES officials are working in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to introduce the commitment announced in the White Paper "21st Century Skills" to help unskilled and low skilled people achieve a first level 2 qualification. The entitlement to free tuition for a first level 2 qualification is part of a coherent offer of support being trialled in the LSC's north east and south east regions from September 2004.

DfES have agreed with National LSC a design framework for the trials, setting out the basis on which they will operate, including eligibility. The trial regions are issuing guidance at a local level based on this framework. I am arranging for a copy of the framework to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria he uses when deciding which parliamentary questions should be referred to the Learning and Skills Council; and how many days after receipt of a parliamentary question the Learning and Skills Council is required to provide a reply. [180710]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Parliamentary questions which request factual information arising from decisions taken by the Learning and Skills Council in the course of its operations are referred to the LSC Chief Executive, asking him to write to the hon. Member concerned. The LSC aims to respond within 10 working days of the publication of answers in *Hansard*. A copy of the Chief Executive's reply is placed in the House Library.

Public Law

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on how his Department is implementing ethnic monitoring in public law proceedings. [180764]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for Education and Skills collects data on the legal status and ethnic origin of looked-after children. The data provided in the following table are a snapshot of the number of looked-after children at 31 March 2003 and a breakdown of their ethnic origin.

Number of children looked after at 31 March 2003 by legal status and ethnic origin[1, 2]

	All children[1, 3]	*White*	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or Black British*	*Other ethnic groups*
All children[1, 3]	60,800	49,200	4,700	1,400	4,200	1,300
Care orders	39,600	33,000	3,400	760	1,900	480
Interim care orders	10,200	8,300	890	270	560	160
Full care orders	29,300	24,700	2,500	490	1,300	320
Voluntary agreement[4]	18,900	14,500	1,200	520	2,100	680
Freed for adoption	1,900	1,700	170	10	10	10
On remand, committed for trial, or detained	250	180	—	0	40	—
Detained for child protection	220	140	60	0	20	0

[1] Figures in this table exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[2] Figures over 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100. Figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced by '—'. All other figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Figures for 'All children' are based on the CLA100. All other figures are derived from the SSDA903 sample. As a result, sum of columns may not agree with totals.
[4] Under S20CA 1989.

The information provided is derived from the SSDA903 and CLA100 returns. The SSDA903 is a statistical return completed by all local authorities with social services responsibilities in England for one-third of all looked-after children. The CLA100 is an annual return providing aggregate data on the numbers of children looked after by each authority on 31 March.

The data provided in the table give an indication of the number of children by ethnic origin involved in public law proceedings.

Pupil Funding (Wigan)

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much public funding was spent per pupil in Wigan in each of the last seven years. [169279]

Mr. Miliband: The Department does not collect the information in the way it has been asked for. However, the following table gives a breakdown of the available data:

Net Current Expenditure

£

	Pre-primary education	*Primary education*	*Pre-primary and primary*	*Secondary education*	*Special*
1996–97	n/a	n/a	1,760	2,490	11,410
1997–98	n/a	n/a	1,750	2,550	12,400
1998–99	n/a	n/a	1,920	2,750	13,640
1999–2000	11,440	2,050	2,090	2,810	15,250
2000–01	7,850	2,460	2,480	3,000	10,170
2001–02	35,350	2,630	2,740	3,310	14,790
2002–03	—	2,860	—	3,610	—

Notes:
1. The financial data is taken from Wigan LEA's Section 52 Outturn Statement submitted to the DfES from 1999–2000 onwards and the ODPM's RO1 statement previously. Expenditure was not distinguished between pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of the Section 52 outturn statement in 1999–2000. 1999–2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

2. The outturn 2002–03 tables captured the data in a fundamentally different way to the previous years. Categories were aligned with the Consistent Financial Reporting framework and the spending by LEAs was no longer split by school sector. Consequently the unit costs per pupil in 2002–03 are not strictly comparable with earlier years as they include an apportionment of LEA expenditure based on pupil numbers. 2002–03 data is subject to change by the LEA. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Net current expenditure (NCE) includes expenditure within schools and also that incurred centrally by the LEA.
4. The NCE per pupil figures for pre-primary and primary relate the net current expenditure (after recharges) in the pre-primary sector and maintained primary schools to the total number of financial year pupils who are educated in the maintained nursery and primary schools sector.
5. The NCE per pupil figures for secondary relate the net current expenditure (after recharges) in maintained secondary schools to the total number of financial year pupils who are educated in the maintained secondary schools sector.
6. The NCE per pupil figures for special schools relate the net current expenditure (after recharges) in maintained special schools to the total number of financial year pupils who are educated in the maintained special schools sector.
7. The variations that appear under the pre-primary sector and special school sector have arisen because the LEA scored items within specific areas differently between 2000–01 and 2001–02. The items fall within specific areas such as premises related, supplies and services, and third party payments; and under special schools the specific areas are employees and premises related expenditure. However, the overall total expenditure for all sectors within the specific areas does not reflect similar substantial differences between the years.
8. Pupil data are drawn from the Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

Residential Bursaries (Low Income Earners)

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans his Department has to provide residential bursaries for low income earners at colleges. [180932]

Alan Johnson: My Department plans to continue to make funding available for residential bursaries, and for support with lodgings and travel costs, for students on full-time courses. This is paid through the Learning and Skills Council and our national delivery agent Manchester city council. The amount of support is assessed against individual financial circumstances.

School Exclusions

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children permanently excluded from schools are diagnosed dyslexic. [180528]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally. However the number of pupils permanently excluded with special educational needs is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: number of pupils permanently excluded with special educational needs (SEN) 2002/03 (Provisional)[3,4,5]

	Number of exclusions	*Percentage of all permanent exclusions[6]*	*Percentage of school population[7]*
Pupils with SEN	6,170	66	0.45
of which:			
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,030	11	0.43
SEN pupils without statements	5,140	55	0.46
Pupils with no SEN	3,120	34	0.05

Notes
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Provisional figures are subject to revision.
[4] Based on numbers confirmed by local education authorities due to incomplete school data returns.
[5] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[6] The number of permanent exclusions by school type expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions across all schools.
[7] The number of excluded pupils expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of the school population. Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
Annual Schools' Census

School Transport

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list, for each of the last five years, the cost per pupil of school transport for each English local education authority with a wholly selective admissions system, together with the average for their statistical neighbours. [177608]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 16 June 2004]*: The information requested is contained within the following table:

LEAs with a selective admissions system		*1998–99*		*1999–2000*	
LEA number	*LEA name*	*Cost per pupil (£)*	*Average for statistical neighbours (£)*	*Cost per pupil (£)*	*Average for statistical neighbours (£)*
303	Bexley	40	38	41	4
319	Sutton	47	35	38	3
358	Trafford	56	42	48	4
825	Buckinghamshire	116	93	85	5
871	Slough	85	37	69	3
880	Torbay	56	61	55	5
882	Southend-on-Sea	88	32	45	3

LEAs with a selective admissions system		1998–99		1999–2000	
LEA number	LEA name	Cost per pupil (£)	Average for statistical neighbours (£)	Cost per pupil (£)	Average for statistical neighbours (£)
886	Kent	113	82	86	72
887	Medway	80	38	63	38
925	Lincolnshire	109	99	110	96

LEAs with a selective admissions system		2000–01		2001–02		2002–03	
LEA number	LEA name	Cost per pupil (£)	Average for statistical neighbours (£)	Cost per pupil (£)	Average for statistical neighbours (£)	Cost per pupil (£)	Average for statistical neighbours (£)
303	Bexley	51	48	30	51	30	60
319	Sutton	44	47	44	51	61	66
358	Trafford	57	46	68	50	87	64
825	Buckinghamshire	133	99	135	107	137	125
871	Slough	65	40	79	42	88	57
880	Torbay	62	57	66	55	84	73
882	Southend-on-Sea	47	47	55	46	74	62
886	Kent	101	81	97	88	123	100
887	Medway	62	38	65	39	70	54
925	Lincolnshire	124	103	135	111	172	127

Notes:

1. The financial data are taken from LEAs' section 52 outturn statement submitted to the DfES from 1999–2000 onwards and the ODPM's RO1 statement previously. 2002–03 data are subject to change by the LEA.
2. The cost of home to school transport includes the cost of public transport, contract hire or the use of authority vehicles in transporting pupils to school under section 509 of the Education Act 1996.
3. Wholly selective areas for grammar school ballots purposes are those which the Department has calculated that 25 per cent. or more of the maintained secondary school population attend maintained grammar schools.
4 Figures include all expenditure by the local authority on school transport. This includes the pre-primary, primary, secondary and special school sectors. The unit cost is calculated by dividing the sum of the net expenditure in these sectors by the total number of pupils educated in LEA maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools.
5. The statistical neighbours categorisations are based upon the classifications developed by Ofsted. The calculation of statistical neighbours is concerned with finding, for each LEA, other LEAs with the most similar values of a given set of variables that describe LEA contexts. The average for a LEA's statistical neighbours is calculated using the sum of the 10 statistically "closest' neighbours net expenditure divided by the total number of pupils educated in these 10 LEAs.
6. Pupil data are drawn from the Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

School Transport (London)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of home to school transport in Greater London was, broken down by local education authority, was in each of the last five years. [170499]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Cost of home to school/college transport in Greater London

£000

	1998–99			1999–2000		
LEA name	Total transport expenditure	Transport related income	Net current expenditure on transport	Total transport expenditure	Transport related income	Net current expenditure on transport
City of London	0	0	0	76	0	76
Camden	1,588	0	1,588	2,935	0	2,935
Greenwich	1,923	0	1,923	2,196	0	2,196
Hackney	2,410	0	2,410	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,238	0	1,238	1,459	0	1,459
Islington	1,354	0	1,354	1,449	0	1,449
Kensington and Chelsea	502	13	489	820	125	695
Lambeth	2,784	0	2,784	2,750	0	2,750
Lewisham	2,024	0	2,024	2,391	0	2,391
Southwark	2,038	0	2,038	2,688	0	2,688
Tower Hamlets	2,289	0	2,289	2,187	0	2,187
Wandsworth	1,514	0	1,514	1,756	0	1,756
Westminster	1,819	0	1,819	1,718	0	1,718
Barking and Dagenham	1,296	0	1,296	1,492	0	1,492
Barnet	2,256	0	2,256	2,460	0	2,460
Bexley	1,449	0	1,449	1,661	0	1,661
Brent	2,251	0	2,251	2,681	0	2,681
Bromley	2,298	0	2,298	2,582	0	2,582
Croydon	1,966	0	1,966	2,249	0	2,249
Ealing	3,098	318	2,780	3,250	306	2,944

Cost of home to school/college transport in Greater London

£00

LEA name	1998–99 Total transport expenditure	1998–99 Transport related income	1998–99 Net current expenditure on transport	1999–2000 Total transport expenditure	1999–2000 Transport related income	1999–2000 Net curre expenditure transpo
Enfield	1,956	0	1,956	3,760	0	3,76
Haringey	1,834	0	1,834	2,002	0	2,00
Harrow	1,477	0	1,477	1,682	0	1,68
Havering	702	25	677	877	26	85
Hillingdon	2,155	0	2,155	2,618	0	2,61
Hounslow	1,669	102	1,567	1,807	0	1,80
Kingston-upon-Thames	749	67	682	1,228	18	1,21
Merton	1,073	0	1,073	1,191	0	1,19
Newham	1,834	0	1,834	2,235	0	2,23
Redbridge	2,161	0	2,161	2,224	0	2,22
Richmond-upon-Thames	817	0	817	1,047	0	1,04
Sutton	891	0	891	1,079	0	1,07
Waltham Forest	1,386	0	1,386	1,834	0	1,83

LEA name	2000–01 Total transport expenditure	2000–01 Transport related income	2000–01 Net current expenditure on transport	2001–02 Total transport expenditure	2001–02 Transport related income	2001–02 Net curre expenditure transpo
City of London	60	0	60	49	0	
Camden	2,030	0	2,030	2,168	0	2,1
Greenwich	2,300	0	2,300	2,382	0	2,3
Hackney	2,097	915	1,182	1,147	0	1,1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,699	0	1,699	1,649	0	1,6
Islington	1,499	15	1,484	1,663	0	1,6
Kensington and Chelsea	821	3	818	1,056	8	1,0
Lambeth	3,027	0	3,027	2,566	114	2,4
Lewisham	2,416	0	2,416	2,721	0	2,7
Southwark	2,730	0	2,730	2,385	0	2,3
Tower Hamlets	2,478	0	2,478	132	0	1
Wandsworth	2,234	2	2,232	2,002	157	1,8
Westminster	2,446	0	2,446	1,919	0	1,9
Barking and Dagenham	2,063	0	2,063	1,984	30	1,9
Barnet	2,700	0	2,700	2,827	0	2,8
Bexley	2,116	0	2,116	1,242	0	1,2
Brent	2,835	0	2,835	2,831	0	2,8
Bromley	2,712	0	2,712	2,952	0	2,9
Croydon	3,290	0	3,290	4,404	0	4,4
Ealing	3,450	366	3,084	3,750	286	3,4
Enfield	3,603	0	3,603	3,932	0	3,9
Haringey	2,116	0	2,116	4,697	0	4,6
Harrow	1,817	0	1,817	2,195	0	2,1
Havering	989	34	955	1,067	14	1,0
Hillingdon	2,742	31	2,712	3,298	0	3,2
Hounslow	1,958	0	1,958	2,149	0	2,1
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,276	16	1,260	1,467	12	1,4
Merton	1,255	0	1,255	1,466	0	1,4
Newham	2,323	0	2,323	2,489	0	2,4
Redbridge	2,498	0	2,498	2,571	0	2,5
Richmond-upon-Thames	0	0	0	0	0	
Sutton	1,267	0	1,267	1,287	0	1,2
Waltham Forest	2,415	0	2,415	2,327	2	2,3

LEA name	2002–03 Total transport expenditure	2002–03 Transport related income	2002–03 Net current expenditure on transp
City of London	62	0	
Camden	2,346	0	2,
Greenwich	2,677	11	2,
Hackney	1,585	516	1,
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,599	0	1,
Islington	2,271	170	2,
Kensington and Chelsea	1,039	0	1,
Lambeth	1,988	0	1,
Lewisham	3,279	0	3,
South wark	2,325	0	2,

LEA name	Total transport expenditure	2002–03 Transport related income	Net current expenditure on transport
Tower Hamlets	743	0	743
Wandsworth	2,520	0	2,519
Westminster	1,636	0	1,636
Barking and Dagenham	2,467	0	2,467
Barnet	4,119	0	4,119
Bexley	1,268	0	1,268
Brent	2,987	0	2,987
Bromley	1,248	0	1,248
Croydon	5,600	1,244	4,356
Ealing	4,140	2,221	1,919
Enfield	3,780	14	3,766
Haringey	2,905	6	2,899
Harrow	2,565	0	2,565
Havering	1,261	3	1,258
Hillingdon	3,706	0	3,706
Hounslow	2,435	0	2,435
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,582	0	1,582
Merton	1,496	0	1,496
Newham	2,893	0	2,893
Redbridge	3,020	0	3,020
Richmond-upon-Thames	1,148	0	1,148
Sutton	1,865	0	1,865
Waltham Forest	2,884	0	2,884

Notes:
1. The financial data is taken from LEAs' Section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DfES from 1998–99 onwards and the ODPM's R01 statement before then. 2002–03 data is subject to change by the LEA.
2. The cost of home to school/college transport includes the cost of public transport, contract hire or the vehicles in transporting pupils/students to school/college under section 509 of the Education Act 1996.
3. Figures include all expenditure by the local authority on transport. This includes the pre-primary, education out of school and continuing education sectors.
4. Some substantial variations between years have occurred. We are not able to offer a detailed analysis for the reasons because LEAs do not offer a breakdown of inconsistencies across the years.
5. ConfED/DfES conducted a joint survey in 2003 of LEA transport expenditure and policies. The data should enable LEAs to compare their policies and costs with other similar authorities.

Special Educational Needs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money each London local education authority allocated to special educational needs in 2003–04. [180099]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 22 June 2004]:* The information requested is contained within the following table:

LEA Name	SEN element of schools budget	SEN element of LEA budget	ISB for special schools	Total LEA allocation for SEN
Barking and Dagenham	3,415,405	1,038,157	3,511,757	7,965,319
Barnet	8,966,384	2,051,850	4,667,260	15,685,494
Bexley	10,492,000	1,151,000	4,408,000	16,051,000
Brent	4,703,000	1,658,000	6,681,000	13,042,000
Bromley	9,678,975	1,317,421	5,355,522	16,351,918
Camden	3,795,237	1,995,432	5,671,120	11,461,789
City of London	325,400	24,600	0	350,000
Croydon	11,577,289	1,201,514	6,741,427	19,520,230
Ealing	6,819,100	1,766,200	7,474,100	16,059,400
Enfield	8,317,459	1,921,638	7,181,880	17,420,977
Greenwich	3,869,720	2,358,667	8,591,880	14,820,267
Hackney	5,601,630	1,207,140	4,875,710	11,684,480
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,284,820	943,536	4,081,583	8,309,939
Haringey	6,104,197	1,718,832	7,076,703	14,899,732
Harrow	5,566,926	1,168,314	3,452,329	10,187,569
Havering	2,271,871	1,123,993	2,841,273	6,237,137
Hillingdon	6,760,266	1,471,209	6,304,268	14,535,743
Hounslow	4,733,691	1,503,933	5,579,654	11,817,278
Islington	3,330,827	1,117,401	4,787,838	9,236,066
Kensington and Chelsea	1,240,876	899,021	2,665,570	4,805,467
Kingston upon Thames	3,219,418	998,903	3,049,500	7,267,821
Lambeth	5,393,809	715,465	7,286,586	13,395,860
Lewisham	7,695,727	914,614	7,870,513	16,480,854
Merton	3,561,140	1,027,587	2,794,557	7,383,284
Newham	8,136,800	1,698,500	2,846,171	12,681,471
Redbridge	2,674,691	2,041,380	7,305,279	12,021,350
Richmond upon Thames	3,518,000	837,100	1,925,700	6,280,800

LEA Name	SEN element of schools budget	SEN element of LEA budget	ISB for special schools	Total LEA allocation for SEN
Southwark	3,518,004	2,471,458	8,135,808	14,125,270
Sutton	4,986,508	1,146,591	3,507,720	9,640,819
Tower Hamlets	5,524,796	1,757,881	6,624,526	13,907,203
Waltham Forest	-204,404	497,728	11,417,430	11,710,754
Wandsworth	-2,581,522	1,494,927	14,466,990	13,380,395
Westminster	4,328,000	1,292,800	1,824,000	7,444,800

Notes:
1. The data are taken from local education authorities' 2003–04 Section 52 Budget statements submitted to the DfES. 2003–04 data is subject to change by the LEA.
2. The SEN element of the schools budget includes the provision for pupils with statements, specialist support for statemented and non-statemented pupils, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, collaboration and integration and inter-authority recoupment. This is recorded in lines 1.1.1 to 1.1.6 in table 1 of the budget statement.
3. The SEN element of the LEA budget includes educational psychology service/assessments and statementing, LEA functions in relation to child protection, health service partnerships/special medical attention, parent partnership, guidance and information and promoting good practice and collaboration. This is recorded in line 2.2.6 of table 1 of the budget statement.
4. The SEN element of the schools budget is recorded in line 1.0.1 of table 1 of the budget statement.

Truancy

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money has been spent by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local education authorities in England and Wales on advertising to deter truancy in each of the past four years for which figures are available. [179903]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The Department has spent approximately £223,000 to fund centrally a number of initiatives to raise awareness of truancy issues, including a poster and leaflet campaign aimed at parents. As part of this campaign, a flyer was sent to 9 million recipients of child benefit.

The full amount breaks down as £113,000 in 2002–03 and £110,000 in 2003–04.

These promotional activities supported a wide range of work by the Department, local education authorities and schools aimed at improving school attendance levels. One such initiative is the twice yearly national truancy sweeps which can generate much coverage in the local press.

(b) This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the truancy figures were for each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* gender and *(b)* ethnicity; and if he will make a statement. [180522]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Truancy figures for schools in England are collected annually from schools and each school provides one set of figures. Information on the characteristics of individual pupils such as gender and ethnicity cannot be derived from these data.

Vocational Education

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is being provided to support the 14 to 16 flexibility initiative to bring vocational education to school children. [180929]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will provide the 'Increased Flexibility for 14 to 16 Year Olds' programme with £58 million direct funding to partnerships in 2004–06. Indirect funding to provide a wide range of training and support will be up to £43 million in the same period.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Emergency Calls

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many 999 emergency calls were made in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, broken down by emergency service. [179086]

Angela Smith: The information requested for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade is detailed in the following table. I have asked the Chief Executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to write to the hon. Lady with the comparable figures for Her Majesty's Coastguard.

Calendar/ financial year	Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	Police Service of Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Fire Brigade
2003–04	80,234	189,385	60,908
2002–03	72,732	201,057	53,453
2001–02	73,432	238,882	63,594
2000–01	71,383	n/a	55,890
1999–2000	68,370	n/a	48,254
1998–99	66,751	n/a	45,162
1997–98	63,139	n/a	47,754
1996–97	62,106	n/a	42,820
1995–96	59,379	n/a	38,338
1994–95	53,851	n/a	30,326

n/a = not available.
Notes:
1. Northern Ireland Fire Brigade and the Police Service for Northern Ireland records 999 calls on a calendar year basis.
2. The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service data shows the number of emergency incidents responded to.
3. The Police Service for Northern Ireland do not have ready access to statistics for the past 10 years.

Acute Hospital Provision (Tyrone and Fermanagh)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will *(a)* take steps to stop the implementation of the decision to remove acute hospital provision from County Tyrone pending a review and

(b) instruct the Health Minister to work with stakeholders to develop a solution which (i) meets the needs of the people of Tyrone and Fermanagh and (ii) is sustainable. [180301]

Angela Smith: I remain of the opinion that the "Developing Better Services" model represents the best configuration of hospital services, both for Northern Ireland in general and for the people of the south west.

The Department, in conjunction with the Western Health and Social Services Board and Sperrin Lakeland Trust, will continue to work closely with stakeholders in relation to both the implementation of the new service model and the ongoing provision of services.

Autism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on autism respite provision for those living in the Crumlin and Antrim region. [179656]

Angela Smith: There is a three bedded unit in Randalstown providing respite to children in the Antrim/Ballymena area, and an eight bedded unit in Ballymena, which both offer residential respite to approximately 40 children, including those with autism. There is a waiting list for both units.

Depending on the complexity of need, there is a family-based scheme offering a respite service to children throughout Homefirst Trust.

There is also a range of respite options for adults with a learning disability, including autism:

(i) A dedicated three bedded unit at Oriel Lodge, Antrim.

(ii) Family based respite.

(iii) Specifically commissioned respite in nursing/residential homes.

The Trust provides respite for 70 families within the Antrim/Ballymena area.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to provide a specialist province-wide centre for autism respite care. [179657]

Angela Smith: The development of services for children with autism is a departmental priority and £0.5 million has been made available for this purpose in 2004–05. It is important, however, that services are locally accessible. Consequently there are no plans to provide a specialist province wide centre for autism respite.

Bullying

Rev. Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of bullying of children were reported in the last three years *(a)* at primary schools and *(b)* in post-primary education in Northern Ireland, broken down by (i) board area and (ii) category of bullying; and whether the incident took place on public transport to or from school in each case. [179914]

Mr. Gardiner: The information sought is not available. The Department of Education and the Education and Library Boards do not collect information on the number or nature of reported incidents of bullying.

In 2001 the Department issued "Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour", which contained advice on tackling bullying and developing an anti-bullying policy. In November 2002 a good practice anti-bullying guide for post-primary schools was distributed. The Department in partnership with key interests in the statutory and voluntary sectors were involved in an advisory capacity in the preparation of that guide. The Department is also committed to producing a similar guide for primary schools in due course in consultation with statutory and voluntary agencies. In November 2003 the Parents Advice Centre (NI), with the Department's support, produced a booklet for parents giving advice on how to identify the signs of bullying and what parents can do to tackle the situation.

Care Strategy

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress being made on the development of a primary care strategy framework document. [179731]

Angela Smith: On 7 June 2004 I launched 'Caring For People Beyond Tomorrow', a consultation document which sets out a strategic framework for the development of primary health and social care services over the next 20 years. The consultation period will end on 8 October 2004.

Child Psychiatrists

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the current waiting time is for children who have been referred to a consultant child psychiatrist, broken down by health board. [179046]

Angela Smith: Information obtained from Health Trusts in Northern Ireland indicates that, at the 31 March 20041, 1,394 children were awaiting assessment by child and adolescent psychiatry services.

Number of children awaiting their first outpatient appointment in the child and adolescent psychiatry specialty (including those who have cancelled or did not attend a previous appointment) in Northern Ireland.

	Months waiting					
Provider trust	*0 to two*	*Three to 11*	*12 to 17*	*18 to 23*	*24 plus*	*Total*
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	46	67	12	2	1	128
Ulster Community and Hospitals HSS Trust	65	40	2	—	—	107
Foyle HSS Trust[1]	52	56	15	5	27	155
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	27	95	35	11	9	177
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	214	166	—	—	—	380
Craigavon and Banbridge Community HSS Trust	69	22	3	—	—	94
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	17	60	—	—	—	77
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	26	28	21	3	—	78

Number of children awaiting their first outpatient appointment in the child and adolescent psychiatry specialty (including those who have cancelled or did not attend a previous appointment) in Northern Ireland.

	Months waiting					
Provider trust	*0 to two*	*Three to 11*	*12 to 17*	*18 to 23*	*24 plus*	*Tota*
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	10	7	—	—	—	1
The Royal Group of Hospital HSS Trust[2]	—	—	—	—	—	18
Northern Ireland total	526	541	88	21	37	1,39

[1] Foyle HSS Trust figures refer to patients waiting at 31 May 2004. Data for all other Trusts refers to patients waiting at 31 March 2004
[2] Royal Group of Hospital HSS Trust is unable to specify numbers waiting in each time band.
Source:
HPSS Trusts

Civil Servants (Industrial Action)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the latest average waiting time for drivers to receive a date for an MoT test is. [180802]

Angela Smith: The average maximum waiting times at 24 June 2004 for vehicle tests at the six test centres not closed by industrial action was fourteen weeks. An average maximum waiting time for the remaining centres cannot be accurately calculated as the industrial action period distorts the figures.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners have had pension payment disrupted as a result of industrial action at *(a)* the Department of Education and *(b)* the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. [180803]

Angela Smith: The Department of Education is responsible for providing a payroll service to some 14,500 teacher pensioners, who are paid monthly. Existing monthly pensioners were paid their May pension on time and it is expected June pensions will also be paid on time.

A small number of lump sum payments to new pensioners were delayed during the industrial action (less than 20). These have now been processed.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is responsible for providing a payroll service to some 24,500 HPSS pensioners, the majority of whom are paid monthly. A small minority, some 300, are paid weekly. Existing monthly pensioners were paid their May pension on time and it is expected June pensions will also be paid on time. Weekly HPSS pensioners have been paid in advance.

A small number of lump sum payments to new pensioners were delayed during the industrial action. The majority of these have now been processed. A small number remain to be cleared, (approximately 20) however arrangements are being made to have manual payments of lump sum issued through the Department's Finance Accounts Branch to any of these pensioners who may be suffering financial hardship.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many booked *(a)* MoT tests and *(b)* driving tests have been cancelled as result of the current industrial action by civil servants; [180808]

(2) how many MOT tests have been cancelled in Northern Ireland because of industrial action in the Civil Service. [180825

Angela Smith: At 24 June 2004, the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency had cancelled 43,532 vehicle tests and 5,791 practical driving tests in the period since continuous industrial action started on 17 May 2004.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications from motorists in Northern Ireland to tax their vehicles have been delayed as a result of the current industrial action by civil servants. [180809

Angela Smith: Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland do not have figures to show the number of applications that have been delayed as a result of the current industrial action. In overall terms, there has been an 11 per cent. reduction in the number of licences issued in May 2004 when compared to May 2003. Figures for June are not available.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers in Northern Ireland have had salary payments delayed as a result of the current industrial action by civil servants; how many teachers are awaiting overdue payments; and what the total value is of salary payments that are overdue. [180810

Mr. Gardiner: The information sought by the hon. Member is not presently available in the format requested. However, the vast majority of permanent teachers (over 19,000) received payment on time last month. For temporary teachers, we have had to make emergency payments at a flat rate for hours worked during April and May and, again, the vast majority of teachers in this category have received those emergency payments. My Department hopes to make all necessary adjustments to salaries as quickly as possible once strike action comes to an end.

Driving Tests

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of each category of driving tests were carried out in each month from January to June in each year since 2001. [180817

Angela Smith: The numbers of practical driving tests carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency in each month from January 2001 to June 2004 are set out in the following tables.

The figures for the current month are for the period to 24 June.

Car and light goods vehicle

	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	3,138	3,788	3,626	3,836
February	2,315	3,150	3,211	3,564
March	2,555	3,468	3,649	4,197
April	3,361	3,358	3,869	3,515
May	3,949	3,518	3,937	2,283
June	3,639	2,812	3,818	1,135

Motorcycle

	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	155	257	322	118
February	107	213	269	97
March	153	249	405	103
April	238	351	88	155
May	359	328	144	92
June	347	446	191	94

Large goods vehicle

	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	195	227	157	180
February	214	204	160	147
March	191	203	195	176
April	159	187	157	147
May	196	202	175	75
June	209	165	168	0

Passenger-carrying vehicle/omnibus

	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	15	43	37	51
February	21	44	18	28
March	30	60	30	43
April	46	23	41	40
May	49	63	24	13
June	50	59	29	31

Car and trailer

	2001	2002	2003	2004
January	32	32	28	35
February	30	36	21	18
March	26	23	8	38
April	20	30	28	35
May	20	42	22	0
June	27	24	35	0

Dual Carriageway

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many miles of dual carriageway per thousand square miles there are in Northern Ireland. [180980]

Mr. Spellar: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin to Mr. Gregory Campbell, dated June 2004:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how many miles of dual carriageway per thousand square miles there are in Northern Ireland. I have been asked to reply as the issue raised falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive.

I can advise you that in Northern Ireland there are 31.04 route miles of dual carriageway per thousand square miles of land area. This includes the length of dual carriageway that is classified as motorway I hope this information is helpful.

Enforcement Notices

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times, in the last five years, the issuing of an enforcement notice has led to the demolition of all or part of a building. [180665]

Angela Smith: The issuing of an enforcement notice has led to the demolition of all or part of a building on three occasions during the last five years.

Farm Subsidies

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in respect of each category of farm payment, how many payments, and of what value, are overdue to farmers in Northern Ireland. [180828]

Mr. Pearson: The European Commission requirement is that scheme expenditure should be paid by 30 June 2004. Against that requirement, no payments are currently overdue.

Farming

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to halt the decline in the number of farmers in *(a)* dairy farming and *(b)* pig production in the province. [181272]

Mr. Pearson: The decline in the numbers of farmers involved in dairying and pig production in Northern Ireland is part of a long-term trend and is similar to what is happening in most developed countries.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has adopted a range of measures to strengthen the underlying competitiveness and efficiency of those in the industry. This includes the Vision Action Plan which aims to help farmers adapt to change and measures to increase the use of information communications technology, to improve animal health in Northern Ireland and programs to deliver relevant research and development.

Fertility Treatment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the age of females has a bearing on where they are placed on waiting lists for fertility treatment. [179653]

Angela Smith: The age of females has no bearing on where they are placed on waiting lists for fertility treatment. However, two types of fertility treatment—In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)—are only available to couples where the female partner has not passed her 38th birthday.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on age restrictions on types of fertility treatment available on the NHS in Northern Ireland. [179654]

Angela Smith: The interim sub-fertility service commenced on 17 December 2001, at the Royal Group of Hospitals. Access to the service is regulated by the criteria recommended by an expert group. In line with these criteria two types of fertility treatment—In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)—are only available to couples where the female partner has not passed her 38th birthday. In addition, to qualify for Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET), the woman's embryos must have been frozen before her 38th birthday. There are no age restrictions with regard to the male partner.

GCSE Grades

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in Northern Ireland obtained *(a)* fewer than five GCSEs at A*–C grades and *(b)* no A–C grades in each year since 1990. [181028]

Mr. Gardiner: The information requested is only available from 1991–92 and is as follows:

	Pupils obtaining fewer than 5 GCSE's at grades A-C*		*Pupils obtaining no GCSE's at grades A*-C*	
Academic Year	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1991–92	13,241	55.7	6,362	26.7
1992–93	11,959	51.8	5,138	22.2
1993–94	12,236	51.5	5,431	22.8
1994–95	12,293	48.7	5,991	23.7
1995–96	12,772	48.4	5,888	22.3
1996–97	11,948	46.5	5,430	21.1
1997–98	11,418	45.2	n/a	n/a
1998–99	11,191	44.0	5,103	20.1
1999–2000	10,930	43.1	5,108	20.1
2000–01	11,279	43.3	5,302	20.4
2001–02	10,678	41.3	4,934	19.1
2002–03	10,760	41.2	4,907	18.8

Grammar Schools

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of appeals by grammar schools for reduction in intake numbers were due to the number of lower graded pupils applying in each of the last three years. [180966]

Mr. Gardiner: There were no requests of this type. However, a small number of grammar schools requested approval under Article 14 (3) of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to refuse admission where they were of the opinion that admission of the child to the school would be detrimental to the educational interests of the child. The number of these requests in each of the last three years is as follows and had no impact on the approved admissions number of the school:

School year	*Number of requests*
2004–05	4
2003–04	4
2002–03	1

Health Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to improve waiting times for dermatology assessment across the Eastern Board catchment area. [179070]

Angela Smith: The Eastern Health and Social Services Board is currently examining the potential for the development of community-based clinics to facilitate earlier assessment and treatment for a range of dermatological conditions. Proposals have also been received and approved by the Board for additional outpatient and inpatient activity in a range of specialties, including dermatology.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress regarding the centralisation of dermatology services in Northern Ireland. [179075]

Angela Smith: There are no plans to centralise general dermatology services in Northern Ireland. The Eastern Health and Social Services Board, however, has set up a working group to take forward the recommendations contained in its review of dermatology services, which is intended to concentrate specialist dermatology services and training at the Belfast City Hospital. Work on this is ongoing.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* new consultant dermatologist posts and *(b)* specialist dermatology clinics have been created in the Province in the past five years. [179076]

Angela Smith: There have been no new consultant dermatologist posts created in the Province in the past five years. A total of three new specialist dermatology clinics have been set up in the past five years: a melanoma screening clinic in Craigavon Area hospital; and two clinics at the Royal Victoria hospital for general and contact dermatitis.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which hospitals provide joint antenatal diabetic clinics with both diabetologists and obstetricians. [179107]

Angela Smith: Joint antenatal diabetic clinics with both diabetologists and obstetricians are provided in Craigavon Area Hospital, the Royal Maternity Hospital, Ulster Hospital and Altnagelvin Hospital.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many general practitioner

practices provide (*a*) diabetes, (*b*) asthma, (*c*) well-woman, (*d*) well-man, (*e*) warfarin and (*f*) lipid clinics. [179108]

Angela Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce a formal clinical network for asthma in the Province. [179110]

Angela Smith: The Department intends to undertake a review of respiratory services, including services for asthma suffers. The issue of clinical networks providing integrated care in the primary and secondary care settings will be considered as part of the review.

Jarvis Contract

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions Jarvis has failed to meet its contractual obligations with regard to the completion of education public-private partnerships. [179888]

Mr. Pearson: Jarvis has not been awarded any contracts in education public-private partnerships in Northern Ireland to date.

MOT Tests

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicle MOT tests were carried out in each month from January to June in each year since 2001. [180816]

Angela Smith: The numbers of full tests and retests carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency in each month from January to June for each year since 2001 are as set out as follows. The figures include all vehicle categories for which roadworthiness certificates are required. The figures for June 2004 are not yet available.

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*	
	Full test	*Retest*	*Full test*	*Retest*	*Full test*	*Retest*	*Full test*	*Retest*
January	37,867	6,754	37,828	6,534	39,813	8,361	42,912	10,110
February	37,601	7,080	37,684	7,086	40,629	9,008	42,936	9,446
March	45,698	8,611	41,937	8,031	41,914	10,106	46,079	10,153
April	39,627	7,723	40,733	7,468	37,755	8,682	40,759	8,096
May	41,102	7,961	43,101	8,628	41,284	8,981	28,963	6,310
June	41,939	8,016	39,555	7,316	43,808	9,893	—	—

Note:
Retest figures may include multiple retests on a single vehicle and may not include vehicles that fail the full test but are not subsequently presented for retest.

Multiple Limb Disability

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what specialist medical facilities exist to support children and adults with congenital multiple limb disability. [179081]

Angela Smith: There is a wide range of services for children and adults with congenital limb deficiency both at Musgrave Park Hospital and at other hospitals throughout Northern Ireland.

A small number of orthopaedic surgeons specialise in care for children with limb deficiency, and work collaboratively with plastic surgeons on these issues.

In the Ulster Hospital there is a Congenital Hand Clinic for patients with upper limb deficiency and the Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine from Musgrave Park Hospital attends this clinic quarterly.

The Prosthetic Service at Musgrave Park Hospital includes a multi-disciplinary team who assist with the provision, rehabilitation and maintenance of artificial limbs for both adults and children.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to establish a specialist clinic for myalgic encephalomyelitis sufferers in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [179732]

Angela Smith: There are no plans at present to establish a specialist clinic for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) sufferers in Northern Ireland.

Clinicians and patients alike often face difficulties as a result of the lack of specific disease markers for ME and a clear understanding of the cause and disease process. The focus on treatment here is centred therefore on close co-operation between patients, carers and the relevant health and social-care professionals, which is essential for ensuring that sufferers obtain the most suitable treatment for their particular needs.

In addition, Belfast City hospital continues to provide a Chronic Fatigue Service, which is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team that adopts a holistic approach to the treatment of patients with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ ME.

Planning Permission

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times the Planning Service has advised applicants who have been granted planning permission but exceeded their authorised dimensions to submit retrospective planning permission applications in the last five years. [180666]

Angela Smith: Planning Service does not record separate information on retrospective planning applications, as these applications are dealt with in the same way as standard planning applications. As this information is not routinely collected, it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Research Capability Fund

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the reasons were for the decision to adopt a different procedure to that in England for the allocation of funds under the Research Capability Fund to Northern Ireland's universities. [180686]

Mr. Gardiner: Decisions in relation to university research funding are entirely a matter for the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). There are many differences between the research funding model adopted by Northern Ireland and that implemented by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), due to the different needs and circumstances of Northern Ireland. In general, HEFCE does not provide recurrent research funding to university departments rated lower than four in the Research Assessment Exercise. The Research Capability Fund in England was allocated, therefore, to a limited range of departments rated 3a. In Northern Ireland, to help maintain a broad base of research activity across the two universities, all departments rated 3a already receive recurrent funding from the Department for Employment and Learning.

The Research Capability Fund, as introduced by DEL has two distinct strands. One strand, in keeping with the policy aim of maintaining a broad research base, funded some university departments rated 3b. A second strand, in keeping with priority 1 of the Regional Innovation Strategy, "think/create/innovate", is to be used to support, selectively, those areas relevant to the needs of the Northern Ireland economy; there is no comparable strand in England.

Residential Child Care

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the residential child care facilities operating in Northern Ireland; and how many *(a)* qualified and *(b)* non-qualified social workers are based at each facility. [180503]

Angela Smith: The number of qualified and non-qualified social workers based at each residential child care facility at 31 March 2004, is as follows.

Number of qualified and non-qualified social workers by residential child care facility: 31 March 2004

	Qualified social worker	*Non-qualified social worker*
Western Board (2004)		
Woodlands	6	7
Coneywarren	3	6
Brindley House	6	4
Arleston Park[1]	0	7
Beltany House[1]	0	0
Rossneal	5	8
The Cottages[1]	0	0
Scroggy Road	3	6
103 Chapel Road	3	4
84 Chapel Road	4	2
Racecourse Road	3	8
Harberton House	6	9
Upper Gallagh	6	7
Total	45	68
Southern Board (2004)		
Bocombra	9	4
Cedar Grove Centre	10	3
Woodside Adolescent Centre	8	6
Edenvilla	6	5
Drumglass Lodge	9	6
Willowgrove Respite + 1	1	8
67 The Grange[1]	1	7
Cherrygrove	10	6
Orana Respite Centre[1]	4	15
Oaklands	0	11
Total	58	71
Northern Board (2004)		
Dhu Varren House	4	9
4 Prince's Gardens	5	1
Ardrath House	5	7
Bailee Adolescent Unit	9	3
Carnview	3	8
Whitehaven[1]	7	10
Cherry Lodge[1]	0	0
Linden	4	4
Hugomont[1]	2	0
Total	39	42
Eastern Board (2004)		
444 Antrim Road	9	3
70 Fortwilliam Park	7	3
Glandore Avenue	7	4
Somerton Road	10	1
Glenmona (Aisling)	7	4
Glenmona (Donard)	10	7
Glenmona (Slane)	8	4
Glenmona (Slemish)	10	2
Craigmore	6	10
Marmion	4	7
Beechfield[1]	2	20
William Street	7	3
Flaxfield	8	1
Appletree	3	8
Hillsborough Road	5	4
Glenmore	3	2
Lindsay[1]	4	15
College Park Avenue	6	3
Bawnmore	4	8
North Road	4	8
Lakewood (Shamrock)	7	11
Lakewood (Oaklands)	5	5
Lakewood (Ashgrove)	6	4
Lakewood (Linden)	7	6
Meadow Lodge	2	9
30–32 Dakota Avenue	3	5
The Children's House (Barnardos)	7	3
Total	161	160

[1] These children's homes provide specialised services to children and young people with learning disabilities. Therefore, they also employ staff with nursing qualifications.
These figures are not whole time equivalents.

Retirement Pension

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to change the current regulations regarding the commencement day of a person's retirement pension. [180564]

Mr. Spellar: The rules governing when payment of a person's retirement pension commences are set out in Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987. There are no plans to change these rules.

School Lockers

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make funding available to schools in Northern Ireland which do not provide individual lockers for each post-primary pupil. [180577]

Mr. Gardiner: No. The Department of Education's School Building Handbook provides for either cloakroom space or moveable lockers in schools. It is a matter for individual school authorities to decide what provision should be made at their schools. The issue is, therefore, essentially a matter of local financial management from within the devolved budgets already made available to schools.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the post-primary schools which do not provide individual lockers for pupils. [180579]

Mr. Gardiner: The Department's School Building Handbook provides for either cloakroom or moveable lockers in schools but it is a matter for the relevant school authorities to decide what provision should be made at a particular school. The information requested is not held by the Department, the Education and Library Boards or the Council for Catholic Maintained School. Such information would have to be sought directly from the schools concerned and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to the answer of 27 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1850W, on sexual offences, on what date the Government expect to conclude their consideration of the need for a review of the sexual offences legislation in Northern Ireland. [179993]

Mr. Spellar: No date has yet been set.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which sections of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 do not apply to Northern Ireland; and what steps he is taking to bring the law in line with that in England and Wales. [179994]

Mr. Spellar: Section 142 (2) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 details the offences in the Act which extend to Northern Ireland. An overview of these offences was set out in my reply to the hon. Gentleman on 27 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1850W. We have not yet made final decisions on a review of the remainder of the body of law on sex offences in Northern Ireland.

Smoking

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the prevalence of smoking has been among teenagers over the past two decades, broken down by gender. [179109]

Angela Smith: The Continuous Household Survey provides the estimated prevalence of smoking among the population in Northern Ireland aged 16 and over. The following table shows the smoking prevalence for teenagers aged 16–19 from 1983 to 2002–03. It should be noted that these figures are based on around 400 people in each year. Therefore, the percentages will fluctuate year-on-year.

Prevalence of cigarette smoking among teenagers aged 16–19 in Northern Ireland, 1983 to 2002–03

Cigarette smokers (percentage)

	Sex		
	All	*Males*	*Females*
1983	25	31	19
1984	22	27	17
1986	31	33	30
1988	23	25	20
1990–91	26	24	27
1992–93	24	24	24
1994–95	24	20	27
1996–97	23	23	23
1998–99	20	15	24
2000–01	26	23	27
2002–03	31	33	28

Source:
Continuous Household Survey 1983 to 2002–03.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made of the merits of instituting a ban on smoking in public places in Northern Ireland; and what reports he has received of the effects of the ban on smoking in public places in the Republic of Ireland. [179816]

Angela Smith: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety commissioned research into public attitudes to smoking prohibitions/restrictions as part of the commitment to implement the Five Year Tobacco Action Plan, launched in July 2003. While 70 per cent. said they would support a ban on indoor public places, support for smoke-free provision in various settings ranged from 82 per cent. in hospitals and 53 per cent. in cafes and restaurants to 34 per cent. in pubs and bars. The Department intends to repeat the survey later in the year.

The ban in the Republic of Ireland was introduced on 29 March and it would be premature at this stage to make a definitive assessment of its impact. However, early indications suggest that the ban is working well with a high level of compliance.

Student Numbers

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to remove the Maximum Aggregate Student Number cap on total full time undergraduate student numbers at Northern Ireland's universities. [180684]

Mr. Gardiner: Since 1999–2000 the Maximum Student Number (MaSN) cap has been raised to allow for 2,560 more full-time home and European Union undergraduate at Queen's University and the University of Ulster.

My Department keeps the situation under constant review but at present there are no plans to remove the cap.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received regarding the *(a)* removal and *(b)* relaxation of the maximum aggregate student number limit on total undergraduate student numbers at Northern Ireland's universities. [180685]

Mr. Gardiner: The Department for Employment and Learning has received representations periodically from Queen's University, the University of Ulster and other interested parties about relaxing or removing the maximum student numbers (MaSN) cap which applies to full-time home and EU undergraduates at both Queen's and Ulster.

Teaching (Children with Learning Disabilities)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public funding has been made available for the teaching of children with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [180981]

Mr. Gardiner: Children with learning difficulties can be educated in a variety of locations including mainstream schools, special units attached to mainstream schools or special schools.

The Department of Education gives Education and Library Boards a block grant each year from which they fund a range of services. Within their Block Grant, Boards establish their own spending priorities and this includes their spending on special educational provision, which includes that for children with learning difficulties. Funding allocations do not specify expenditure for particular types of special educational need and therefore it is not possible to identify separately the funding provided for children with learning difficulties.

For a general statement on funding provided by the Department for special educational provision, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer I gave to the hon. Gentleman the Member for Belfast, South on 28 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 1115W.

Transfer Test

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the smallest possible difference between the lowest A graded pupils and the top D graded pupils is in the Transfer Test. [180968]

Mr. Gardiner: The difference in standard scores or quotients between the lowest A graded pupils and the top D graded pupils in the Transfer Procedure test for the last three years is as follows:

Grade	*2003–04 Quotient*	*2002–03 Quotient*	*2001–02 Quotient*
Lowest As	214	215	214
Highest Ds	188	190	190
Difference	26	25	24

Vehicle Excise Duty (Applications)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for vehicle excise duty were processed in Northern Ireland in each month from January to June in each year since 2001. [180814]

Angela Smith: The following table shows the number of vehicle licences issued in each month, January to June from January 2001 to May 2004. The figures for June 2004 are not yet available.

Year	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*Totals*
2001	86,735	88,746	86,850	91,176	89,871	91,109	534,487
2002	89,985	90,885	91,215	102,347	102,794	78,885	556,111
2003	99,725	98,485	95,292	98,164	97,046	108,487	597,199
2004	109,000	100,417	115,256	101,281	86,265	n/a	512,219
Totals	385,445	378,533	388,613	392,968	375,976	278,481	2,200,016

West Nile Virus

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what preparations have been made to deal with a potential outbreak of West Nile virus in the Province. [179658]

Angela Smith: There is no evidence at present of any cases of West Nile infection in people in Northern Ireland or the rest of the United Kingdom. The inter-departmental Regional Zoonoses Group chaired by the Chief Medical Officer is currently considering the issue in liaison with the UK Zoonoses Group on which Northern Ireland is represented. In late May 2004, the Chief Medical Officer in England published a contingency plan to protect the public's health in England in the event of a case of West Nile Virus illness being diagnosed. This will help inform preparations in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. The Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service last year recommended that those who travelled to North America defer making donations of blood for 28 days after returning from that area. The Chief Medical Officer's (DHSSPS) "Update" publication has also drawn West Nile Virus to the attention of GPs to raise awareness when considering a diagnosis. Information on West Nile Virus is also included on the DHSSPS website.

Much has been learned from our planning and preparations to deal with infections such as SARS and Influenza, which will enable us to deal with other infections as they emerge.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 30 June 2004

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Age Discrimination

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made towards implementing into domestic law the provisions of the EU Directive on age discrimination in employment; and if she will make a statement. [181042]

Jacqui Smith: We are on course for legislation coming into force on 1 October 2006 to outlaw age discrimination in employment and vocational training under the European Employment Directive. Our Age Matters consultation last year sought views on options for the implementing legislation. We are reviewing the timetable for further consultation in the light of our clear commitment to give those with responsibilities and with rights as much time as possible to prepare, and to do so with regulations that are clear and effective. We shall announce the new timetable as soon as possible.

Business Support

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been allocated to support business in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* sector and *(b)* region. [177177]

Nigel Griffiths: Information on the allocation of business support is not readily available in aggregate at sectoral and regional level, and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Tribunals

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2004, *Official Report,* column 1452W, on employment tribunals' reinstatement orders, if she will introduce legislation to ensure that employment tribunals have the power to require employers who are found to have reasonably not complied with reinstatement orders to pay compensation in default. [181400]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All employers who fail to comply with a reinstatement order, whether reasonably or otherwise, are required to pay compensation instead. If the failure to comply was unreasonable they are also required to pay an additional award.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures the Department has put in place to ensure the promotion of science, engineering and technology as a career to women in educational establishments; and what indicators are used to measure the success of these schemes. [180071]

Ms Hewitt: The contract for the new Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) encompasses all SET occupations including careers in educational establishments. The Resource Centre contractors have established a dedicated HE Advisory Group and intend to work closely with the Athena project which has already done excellent work in identifying the barriers to women reaching senior positions in HE occupations and providing good practice advice to employers in this area. Over the first three years of the contract I would expect to see an encouraging upward trend in the number of women reaching the most senior positions. However, it is obviously important that my Department and that of Education and Skills work closely on this since there are issues about getting girls and women to study appropriate subjects at school and university in order that a critical mass in the HE work force can be achieved. We are working together on this through the 10 year framework for Science and Innovation. DfES has contributed £200,000 to the Resource Centre to support HEIs to put measures in place that aid retention and progression of female undergraduates on SET courses into the SET labour force, including: grants to assist HEIs in running mentoring schemes; placements in industry and research; focused tutor and peer support systems; and work with employers.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 817W, on the Export Credits Guarantee Department, what the value of unrecovered ECGD claims were relating to *(a)* the current financial year, *(b)* the previous financial year, *(c)* financial years 2000–01 to 2002–03 inclusive and *(d)* financial years prior to 2000–01, broken down by country; and if she will make a statement. [180733]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The following table lists ECGD's net unrecovered claims for each of the last five financial years on a market-by-market basis. These figures are calculated by subtracting claims paid from recoveries of debt that ECGD has made in each of the five years (i.e. a figure of one million represents the net amount received by ECGD after any claims paid; likewise, a figure of one million represents an overall debit, after any recoveries received). These claims and recoveries could be made in respect of a number of different guarantees and insurance policies issued by ECGD.

The information provided in my previous answer to the hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) of 15 June concerned ECGD's total unrecovered claims, which include the substantial historical debts incurred prior to the Department's financial restructuring in 1991. As a result many of the figures given in the table involve recoveries on pre-1991 debt. The hon. Member will be aware that ECGD has made a return to the Exchequer in 12 of the last 13 years and has made a return overall in the years since the 1991 restructuring.

Because the figures provided in this new answer are a snapshot of ECGD's cash flow at given times during the past five years only, they are of limited use for assessing total unrecovered claims, and do not take into account claims paid or recoveries received in other years over the lifetime of the loans.

£

Country	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Algeria	3,433,121.54	4,886,535.77	6,515,506.12	8,366,610.42	5,752,247.78
Angola	19,687.32	0.00	0.00	316,860.00	0.00
Antigua and Barbuda	398,025.86	411,327.69	488,984.99	451,370.76	37,614.23
Argentina	6,100,213.68	3,407,928.75	0.00	1,266.82	0.00
Australia	490,298.17	-1,167,570.16	-3,481,091.86	-3,039,703.40	-846,695.15
Bahrain	3,000.00	1,861.23	900.00	0.00	0.00
Belgium	0.00	-1,634,019.33	-8,840,675.20	-10,882,807.52	-4,529,772.82
Benin	0.00	8,530.07	0.00	1,569,484.38	0.00
Bolivia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.00	2,985.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brazil	30,706,144.89	35,069,435.01	39,799,731.05	42,892,573.51	-66,337.68
Bulgaria	2,065,999.26	3,627,991.58	2,065,999.27	0.00	0.00
Burkina Faso	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cameroon	428,496.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canada	0.00	0.00	213.05	-21,564,574.16	2,050,102.00
Central African Republic	2,621.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chad	0.00	149,906.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colombia	—	—	—	-811,924.10	-249,953.59
Cote D'Ivoire	117,408.10	-2,620,345.38	-2,717,176.97	263,617.76	56,740.75
Croatia	3,698,531.92	4,555,427.50	4,949,511.10	5,523,037.56	0.00
Cuba	0.00	25,384.14	49,176.01	473,150.14	0.00
Cyprus	0.00	579.33	455.39	945.91	0.00
Denmark	0.00	3,364.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dominica	0.00	—	-984,621.04	-222,576.26	-446,135.62
Ecuador	0.00	549,370.09	544,650.10	1,062,342.78	866,073.41
Egypt	8,792,541.50	1,565,056.71	2,806,406.82	3,476,362.49	0.00
El Salvador	0.00	-1,249,950.55	1,126,316.30	0.00	0.00
Ethiopia	-512,801.40	-116,762.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
France	19,214.16	-174,683.90	3,222.87	2,951.06	0.00
Gabon	4,597,316.12	3,351,217.08	0.00	0.00	371,150.96
Germany	13,333.37	1,030.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ghana	-2,877,572.45	-32,717,960.31	-24,575,089.08	-19,774,152.60	-5,146,533.04
Greece	29,911.50	0.00	0.00	14.60	0.00
Grenada	753,685.29	675,000.00	679,665.00	675,000.00	225,000.00
Guinea	24,850.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Guyana	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,051,772.71	0.00
Hong Kong	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
India	-657,320.59	-274,399.08	565,684.46	1,020,365.75	—
Indonesia	-224,872,255.77	-155,068,194.03	-125,794,471.20	-78,553,025.30	41,287.17
Iran, Islamic Republic of	4,118,354.51	3,998,848.06	741,842.88	109,806.67	0.00
Iraq	0.00	2,680,640.36	-434,809.35	449,822.98	23,537.30
Ireland	0.00	0.00	0.00	387.84	0.00
Italy	2,964.46	28,431.65	17,642.43	2,549.85	0.00
Jamaica	188,624.37	544,805.72	282,247.82	386,047.90	0.00
Jordan	-1,919,501.66	12,139,852.03	-545,259.21	44,483,576.92	1,119.88
Kenya	-3,253,194.04	10,012,223.82	25,132.87	0.00	0.00
Kuwait	10,730.70	449,414.91	592,717.74	511,777.23	131,363.56
Lebanon	0.00	0.00	-776.02	-17.06	0.00
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.00	0.00	135.56	16,400,043.68	0.00
Macedonia	58,275.16	95,017.17	380,181.71	362,478.65	1,944.65
Madagascar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malawi	122,174.00	2,690,097.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mali	0.00	11,762.19	1,255.73	0.00	0.00
Mauritania	0.00	8,191.08	0.02	0.00	0.00
Mexico	28,168,248.12	-1,288,553.56	23,873,649.29	66,721.94	0.00
Morocco	4,592,332.05	6,562,444.85	6,939,462.86	7,351,327.77	0.00
Mozambique	0.00	0.00	2,870,982.88	0.00	0.00
Nigeria	-3,674,456.45	-38,481.76	66,789,332.13	86,053,348.66	13,333,907.53
Pakistan	-911,344.93	-865,767.00	-3,212,818.23	-557,736.24	0.00
Panama	813,026.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paraguay	1,914,111.09	0.00	0.00	-5,939.89	0.00
Peru	12,706,642.59	3,504,325.32	4,075,298.16	4,429,759.95	0.00
Philippines	—	11,566,230.84	2,294,000.35	2,166,217.37	0.00
Poland	13,570,817.27	16,249,587.83	20,879,495.21	27,178,096.85	3,593,210.68
Portugal	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,069.90	0.00

£

Country	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05
Russian Federation	-2,813,649.04	29,891.77	21,496,809.12	24,671,985.95	0.00
Saudi Arabia	0.00	1,352.61	0.00	121,240.70	12,961.00
Senegal	220.18	16,433.35	262.91	4,037.33	0.00
Serbia Republic	0.00	0.00	12,877.24	12,877.24	0.00
Seychelles	4,948.00	5,283.18	-192,382.00	-621,497.56	-157,476.47
Sierra Leone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Singapore	0.00	175.35	0.00	5,312.03	0.00
Somalia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spain	31,415.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5,012.38
Sri Lanka	0.00	0.00	0.00	-811.63	0.00
Sudan	0.00	1,702.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
Switzerland	0.00	-1,873,182.91	-10,820,408.82	-12,746,067.25	-2,288,028.44
Taiwan, Province of China	1,510.32	1,440.00	537,991.94	0.00	0.00
Taiwan	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Tanzania, United Republic of	0.00	3,417.23	4,852,576.21	5,270.00	0.00
Thailand	1,344,533.07	776.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Trinidad and Tobago	590,752.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thailand	0.00	0.00	-638,878.74	0.00	0.00
Turkey	0.00	-354,684.49	1,663,414.43	-639,209.06	0.00
Turkmenistan	0.00	-1,730,917.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uganda	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
United Arab Emirates	16,670.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
United Kingdom	4,819.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
United States	129,515.18	0.00	1.00	1,834.93	0.00
USSR	-2,708,564.92	-30.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Venezuela	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Viet Nam	18,345.37	37,837.33	60,769.07	87,140.53	0.00
Venezuela	29,395.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yemen	0.00	0.00	2,554,183.04	0.00	0.00
Yugoslavia	0.00	15,395.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zambia	148,663.02	1,403.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zimbabwe	-23,436,227.46	-23,851,576.75	-19,927,608.01	-16,163,551.56	-2,561,013.32

Notes:
1. All amounts are in sterling.
2. ECGD is unable to provide figures for years prior to 2000 at present.

Launch Investment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans she has to enhance Launch Investment for the aerospace industry. [181385]

Jacqui Smith: The Aerospace Innovation and Growth Team Report published in June of 2003 recommended that the Government should continue to consider applications for Launch Investment. The Government accepted that recommendation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what Government support was provided to Launch Investment and its predecessor programme in each year since 1990. [181386]

Jacqui Smith: The figures provided in the following table are the published payments and receipts for Launch Investment for the years 1990–91 to 2002–03 inclusive.

£ million

Financial year	Payments	Receipts
1990–91	141.1	51.8
1991–92	78.7	83.1
1992–93	31.4	71.8
1993–94	3.5	54.6
1994–95	2	45.2
1995–96	16.4	51.1
1996–97	0.3	49.7
1997–98	57.9	123.1
1998–99	50	177
1999–2000	66.4	201
2000–01	52.6	147.8
2001–02	188.7	142.5
2002–03	258.2	108.2
Total	947.2	1,306.9

Minimum Wage

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate she has made of the percentage of the workforce earning at or within 10 per cent. above the minimum wage in each of the last five years. [178355]

Ruth Kelly: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Tim Loughton, dated 30 June 2004:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question about the percentage of the workforce earning at or within 10 per cent. above the minimum wage in each of the last five years. (178355)

The Office for National Statistics calculates estimates of the number of jobs (rather than the number of people) in the UK paid less than a range of 10 pence-per-hour thresholds ranging from £2.90 per hour to £7.00 per hour. These are measured in the Spring quarter of each year.

We have no surveys that provide sufficiently reliable direct measures of the incomes or earnings of those being paid at rates close to the minimum wage. Consequently, these estimates have been derived, and they show more variability than the directly-measured statistics that the source surveys were designed to produce.

Legislation covering minimum wage rates for UK employees over the age of 18 was introduced on 1 April 1999. Since 1999 the rates for both 18–21 year-olds and for those aged over 21 have been increased. The attached table shows, for the Spring quarter of each of the last five years and for each of these age groups:

the minimum wage rate

the wage threshold approximately 10% above the minimum wage.

the percentage of jobs paid at the relevant minimum wage and up to the threshold approximately 10% above it

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles and data can be found on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StaBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Percentage of jobs with wages either equal to, or between 0 per cent. and 10 per cent.[1] greater than, the National Minimum Wage

	Ages 18–21			*Age 22 and over*		
Year[2]	*Minimum wage (£)*	*Minimum wage plus approx. 10 per cent. (£)*	*Percentage of jobs in this wage band*[3]	*Minimum wage (£)*	*Minimum wage plus approx. 10 per cent. (£)*	*Percentage of jobs in this wage band*[3]
1999	3.00	3.30	8.3	3.60	4.00	6.5
2000	3.00	3.30	4.7	3.60	4.00	5.5
2001	3.20	3.50	3.3	3.70	4.10	5.4
2002	3.50	3.90	6.8	4.10	4.50	6.7
2003	3.60	4.00	5.2	4.20	4.60	5.5

[1] Approximate.
[2] Figures relate to the spring quarter of each year.
[3] Wage band encompasses the minimum wage rate and all wage rates between it and the threshold shown.

Petroleum Reserves

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions she has had with the International Energy Authority about proposals from the European Commission to increase strategic petroleum reserves to 120 days supply. [179790]

Mr. Timms: The Commission's proposal is part of a wider proposal dating from 2002. This has been opposed by EU member states and by the European Parliament because it threatens to undermine the global system for responding to disruption or threatened disruption of oil supplies managed by the International Energy Agency, and has not been formally discussed since May 2003. The IEA is aware of our opposition to the proposal.

RDA Staff

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1556–58W, what the cost was of the staff employed in press and public relations in each regional development agency in each of those years. [176680]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry provided to his earlier question on the same topic on 21 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1273W.

Research and Development

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 382W, on research and development, for what reason the date for the next regional competition deadline for the grant for research and development has not yet been decided. [180385]

Nigel Griffiths: The effectiveness of the current competition in being assessed alongside the resource available before committing to any future competition dates. The business community will be informed of any future rounds at the earliest opportunity, to give the time needed by applicants and their advisors to prepare quality applications.

Royal Mail

Mr. Flook: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the surcharge for the postage paid impression service was introduced by the Royal Mail; what criteria were used to decide on the percentage surcharge; what consultation with long-standing customers was carried out in advance, and what notification was given to long-standing customers. [180558]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The pricing of universal postal services is a matter for Postcomm in consultation with Royal Mail and other interested parties, and I have asked Royal Mail's Chief Executive to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Small Businesses

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government have taken to increase small businesses in the constituency of Coventry, South since 1997. [180607]

Nigel Griffiths: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave my hon. Friend on 29 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 198W.

South-West Regional Development Agency

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what formal complaints about the South-West Regional Development Agency there have been in the last three years from *(a)* a sub-regional partner and *(b)* an organisation. [181308]

Jacqui Smith: There have been no formal complaints from sub-regional partners or organisations handled under the Agency's formal complaints procedure in the last three years.

TREASURY

China

Mr. Pike: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much investment there has been by British businesses in the economy of China in the last three years for which figures are available. [181524]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Peter Pike, dated 30 June 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question about UK investment in China for the latest available three years. I am replying in his absence. (181524)

The attached tables show the requested information for the years 2000–2002, the most recent three-year period for which estimates are available. Estimates are shown separately for China and Hong Kong.

The results for the annual surveys into Foreign Direct Investment are published in the Business Monitor MA4 "Foreign Direct Investment", which is available on the National Statistics website.

Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows and International Investment Position, UK to China, excluding Hong Kong, 2000–02

£ million

	Net FDI Flows	*Net FDI International Investment Position*[1]
2000	410	1,505
2001	662	2,106
2002	643	3,359

Source:
ONS Business Monitor MA4: Foreign Direct Investment 2002.

Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows and International Investment Position, UK to Hong Kong, 2000–02

£ million

	Net FDI Flows	*Net FDI International Investment Position*[1]
2000	-3,309	4,745
2001	590	6,638
2002	933	5,735

[1] The net International Investment Position figures showing the net stock outstanding, are not simply the cumulative total of all the flows up to the end of the relevant period. They also take into account goodwill write-offs, the revaluation of assets and exchange rate fluctuations.

Source:
ONS Business Monitor MA4: Foreign Direct Investment 2002.

Unemployment

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are registered as long-term unemployed in Hyndburn; and how many were registered in 1997. [181301]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Greg Pope, dated 30 June 2004:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment. (181301)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. However, the LFS sample size is too small to give reliable estimates of unemployment in the Hyndburn Constituency.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA) for local areas including parliamentary constituencies.

In May 2004, the latest date for which information is available, 66 people resident in the Hyndburn Constituency had been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for over 12 months. The corresponding figure for May 1997 was 283.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were unemployed in each constituency in the UK, grouped by region, in *(a)* January 1990 and *(b)* April 1992. [180024]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Chris Ruane, dated 30 June 2004:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment in each constituency in the UK, grouped by region, in *(a)* January 1990 and *(b)* April 1992. (180024)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. However, the LFS sample size is too small to give reliable estimates of unemployment by Parliamentary Constituency.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for local areas including Parliamentary Constituencies.

I am placing in the House of Commons Library, a table showing the number of JSA claimants in each Parliamentary Constituency in January 1990 and April 1992. The list of constituencies shown contains all those that existed during this period. Parliamentary boundary changes since April 1992 are not reflected in this list.

Administration Costs

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the administration costs per full-time equivalent employee of the core Treasury functions from 1998–99 to 2007–08. [178110]

Ruth Kelly: In common with other Departments, the Treasury reports time series for administration costs and staff numbers along with other financial information in the core tables of its departmental report which are available in the Library of the House.

Better Regulation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answers of 17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on better regulation, what assessment he has made of the finding of the First Report on the Implementation of the Framework Action Plan: Updating and Simplifying the Community

Acquis, COM (2003) 623, that the purpose of simplification is not to deregulate or cut back the acquis. [180922]

Ruth Kelly: The Commission state that the purpose of simplification is to reduce the costs of regulation while preserving overall policy objectives. This can include removal or revision of existing legislation.

Census Statistics

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 21 April 2004, *Official Report*, columns 502–03W, on census statistics, what proportion of the population in the 1991 Census identified themselves as English in *(a)* England, *(b)* the UK and *(c)* each constituency. [179723]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Andrew Turner, dated 30 June 2004:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's answer of 21st April, Official Report, columns 502–3 W, on Census Statistics, what proportion of the population in the 1991 Census identified themselves as English in *(a)* England, *(b)* the UK and *(c)* each constituency. (179723)

Whilst a question on ethnic group was included in a census for the first time in Great Britain in 1991, there was no separate code for those who wrote in "English" as was the case in 2001. Therefore, no figures are available for 1991 which are directly comparable to those contained in the answer cited above.

However, figures on the number of people living in England who identified themselves as having been born in England were collected in both the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. The "Country of Birth" variable is not an indication of the nationality or ethnic origin of the respondent, merely a record of their place of birth. However, the figures have been collected in both censuses and are directly comparable. The number of people living in England who identified themselves as having been born in England was 42,003,349 in 1991 and 42,968,596 in 2001.

Two tables have been compiled from published data to show the number of people living in each Parliamentary Constituency in England who identified themselves as having been born in England in the 1991 and 2001 Censuses. Both tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library. Table 04 PQ456—1991 Census : People Born in England has been extracted from the 1991 Census of Population—Small Area Statistics which can be accessed on the National Statistics website at www.nomisweb.co.uk. Table 04 PQ456—2001 Census : People Born in England has been extracted from Table KS05 on the CD supplement to the Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies, which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Figures for the 1991 Census are presented using Parliamentary Constituency boundaries from 1995. Figures for the 2001 Census are presented using the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries from the 2001 General Election.

Departmental Staff

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were employed in the Department to work in the communications field and what the total expenditure on communications for the Department was, broken down by *(a)* Government Information and Communication Service staff and *(b)* other staff, broken down by (i) press officers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) others, in (A) 1994–95, (B) 1996–97, (C) 1997–98 and (D) 2001–02. [168672]

Ruth Kelly: The number of staff employed by the Treasury to work on media communications has remained broadly constant at nine in each of the years mentioned, around seven of whom were GICS press officers, with one special adviser employed since 1997.

The number of staff employed to work on Treasury publications, managing the Treasury's external website and related administration has remained broadly constant in each of the years at 12.

For available figures on the costs of these staff, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 31 January 2003, *Official Report*, column 613W, and on 26 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 754W, and to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office to the hon. Member for Yeovil on 31 Jan 2003, *Official Report*, column 1051W.

Early Retirement

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees in his Department took early retirement, and at what total cost, in the last financial year. [172177]

Ruth Kelly: 62 people took early retirement in the 2003–04 financial year from HM Customs and Excise, HM Treasury and Inland Revenue at a cost of £4,687,634. Departmental accounts have not yet been finalised and may therefore be subject to revision.

Early departures were authorised under the categories set out in the Civil Service Management Code, including restructuring, in support of the Government's efficiency agenda.

EU Budget

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total *(a)* gross and *(b)* net contribution made by the United Kingdom to the EU budget has been since accession in (i) current and (ii) constant prices. [180669]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested is set out in the table:

£ billion

	Current prices	*Constant prices 2003–04*
UK gross contribution, after abatement (1973–74 to 2003–04)	122.7	181.6
UK net contribution (1973–74 to 2003–04)	50.9	84.6

Sources:
Current price figure taken from figures for individual years published by HM Treasury, rounded to one decimal place.
Constant 2003–04 prices figures equals individual year figures converted using latest HM Treasury GDP Deflators.

Finance Bill

Mr. Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to implement the sections of the Finance

Bill which allow company pension scheme members to draw a company pension while continuing to work for the same employer. [181579]

Ruth Kelly: The measures to enable flexible retirement by allowing people to continue to work while drawing their occupational pension from the same employer are part of the pensions tax simplification measures in the Finance Bill 2004. The measures will come into force, as stated in clause 270 of the Bill, on 6 April 2006.

Income Tax

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of income tax paid in 2003–04 was settled in *(a)* sterling, *(b)* euros and *(c)* other foreign currencies. [180790]

Dawn Primarolo: Of the total gross receipt figure for income tax received in 2003–04 0.008 per cent. was settled in euros and 0.003 per cent. was settled in other foreign currencies (primarily US$).

Incomes Surveys

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the sample size was for the *(a)* Survey of Personal Incomes and *(b)* New Earnings Survey for each year since 2001 in (i) Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, (ii) the Scottish Borders region and (iii) Scotland. [180961]

Ruth Kelly: The available sample sizes are as follows:

Survey of personal incomes

Tax year	*2001–02*
(i) Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	340
(ii) the Scottish Borders region	540
(iii) Scotland	22,425

New earnings survey

Survey date: April	*2002*	*2003*
(i) Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	154	189
(ii) the Scottish Borders region	267	280
(iii) Scotland	14,845	14,921

Insurance Mediation Directive

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many respondents from industry declared their support for regulation of motor warranties in the public consultation for the Insurance Mediation Directive; and what rationale the Government used in *(a)* supporting the inclusion of motor warranties in the Directive and *(b)* supporting exclusions for (i) travel insurance sold as part of a package and (ii) extended warranties. [180637]

Ruth Kelly *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* The Insurance Mediation Directive requires the UK to regulate extended warranties which are contracts of insurance costing more than 500 euros per annum. Extended warranties which are contracts of insurance and cost less than 500 euros are excluded, as are extended warranties which are not contracts of insurance. The Directive does not make specific reference to motor warranties.

The Treasury received around 400 responses to its consultation, which closed on 31 January 2003, on regulating insurance mediation.

Virtually all respondents agreed with the proposal that all motor warranties that are contracts of insurance should be subject to regulation by the FSA, including those costing less than 500 euros per annum.

Policy implications of the Insurance Mediation Directive were highlighted in the Government's Explanatory Memorandum Number 11686/00—"Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and Council on Insurance Mediation" issued on 30 October 2000. As noted in the Explanatory Memorandum, the Government's approach to the negotiations was to seek to ensure that the level of regulation proposed was proportionate and consistent with the goals of improving consumer protection and advancing the single market for financial services, keeping any consequent restructuring of the UK's regulatory regime to a minimum.

Job Vacancies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many job vacancies in the UK have been unfilled in each quarter of the last three years as a result of a lack of skilled applicants. [181030]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Stephen O'Brien, dated 30 June 2004:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many job vacancies in the UK have been unfilled in each quarter of the last three years as a result of a lack of skilled applicants. (181030)

The following table shows the total average numbers of job vacancies for each quarter since April 2001. These estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey, and are not seasonally adjusted. Information on the reasons for vacancies being unfilled, such as a lack of skilled applicants, is not available.

Average total stock of job vacancies (not seasonally adjusted) United Kingdom, quarterly since April-June 2001

thousands

Quarter ending	*Number of vacancies*
2001	
June	672.3
September	669.2
December	593.9
2002	
March	582.3
June	614.3
September	620.0
December	599.4
2003	
March	560.4
June	582.9
September	607.1
December	607.9
2004	
March	589.0

Population (Chorley)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on projected changes in the population in Chorley constituency in the next 10 years. [180414]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Len Cook to Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, dated 30 June 2004:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning the projected population of the Chorley constituency in the next 10 years. (180414)

ONS does not publish sub-national population projections for parliamentary constituencies, but does currently publish projections at is local authority level. Chorley is an unusual case in that the Parliamentary Constituency currently has the same boundaries as the Chorley borough council area. The projected population for Chorley borough council area for the next 10 years is given in the table below.

However, it should be noted that the last official long-term sub-national population projections were based on 1996 populations, and consequently do not take account of the 2001 Census and subsequent revisions to the mid year population estimates.

Long-term population projections[1]

Chorley local authority, 2004–14[2]	*(Thousand)*
2004	97.7
2005	97.8
2006	97.9
2007	97.9
2008	98.0
2009	98.0
2010	98.0
2011	98.1
2012	98.1
2013	98.2
2014	98.2

[1] Projections based on 1996 populations
[2] Mid-year projections for each year shown

ONS are currently preparing 2002-based sub-national population projections and they are due to be published at the end of August 2004.

Retirement Age

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Department of Trade and Industry on the mandatory retirement age. [181048]

Ruth Kelly: The Department of Trade and Industry have consulted widely on implementation of the EU Employment Directive (EC/2000/78) within the UK. The Government are considering the results of the consultation. The Treasury is contributing to these discussions.

Seafarers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the EU state aid provisions of EU member states that have reduced national insurance contributions paid by employers of seafarers; and whether his Department plans to introduce a similar scheme in the UK. [181439]

Dawn Primarolo: No assessment of other member states' schemes has been made. A reduced rate of national insurance contributions for employers of seafarers would not be consistent with the principle of universality on which the national insurance system operates.

Stamp Duty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of raising the stamp duty threshold on residential property from £60,000 to *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £120,000 and *(c)* £150,000; and if he will make a statement. [181126]

Ruth Kelly: The estimated cost of raising the £60,000 stamp duty threshold on residential property, in 2004–05, to each of the levels indicated in the question, is given in the following table. These estimates make no allowance for behavioural changes.

Raised £60,000 residential threshold to:	*Cost (£ million)*
£100,000	210
£120,000	360
£150,000	570

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of abolishing residential property stamp duty for first time buyers. [181127]

Ruth Kelly: I regret that this information is not available.

Tax Credits

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest projections are of the cost of the child care credit in the next three years; and what estimate he has made of the change in costs arising from the changes to the arrangements announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May. [180986]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Mrs. Brooke) on 27 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 866W. No estimate of the cost of the changes announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May 2004 will be made until the consultation period has ended.

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families with equivalised income of less than 60 per cent. of median who will benefit from the extension of the child care tax credit to the provision of child care in the family home announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May. [180987]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimate of the number of families who could benefit from the proposed changes announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May 2004 will be made until the consultation period has ended.

Working Time Directive

Mr. Tynan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees in his Department have *(a)* signed a formal opt out from and *(b)* are exempt from the Working Time Directive; and how many employees in his Department have recorded hours, including any

accruing on a flexitime basis, in excess of the maximum allowed under the Working Time Directive in the last month for which figures are available. [178370]

Ruth Kelly: Currently 18 staff in the Treasury have signed voluntary agreements to disapply the 48 hour limit. No staff are exempt from the Working Time Directive. Comprehensive records are not available to show how many staff have worked in excess of 48 hours per week. The regulations require that the 48 hour limit is measured over a 17 week period but a flexibility introduced in 1999 removed the requirement for employers to keep records of the hours worked by staff who voluntarily agree to disapply the limit. The Treasury remains committed to reducing the amount of excess hours worked.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bridleways

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for new bridleways in Lancashire. [180425]

Alun Michael: The Government are funding the Countryside Agency's Discovering Lost Ways project to research forgotten rights of way; this will lead to the discovery of many more bridleways all over the country. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme can also help to provide new permissive bridleways, including on land classified as open countryside under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. In addition, local highway authorities are preparing rights of way improvement plans, which should improve the network for equestrians in their areas. The Pennine Bridleway southern section opened in May extending the route from Lancashire into Derbyshire.

Canoeists (Access)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will clarify the meaning of the research note by the Countryside Agency enclosed in a letter to the hon. Member for Totnes dated 21 May stating that voluntary agreements enabling canoeists to have greater access to inland waters will require motivated access champions to persuade landowners to get involved in the process and canoeists to support agreements along with whatever conditions are necessary to meet local circumstances. [181368]

Alun Michael: The Countryside Agency Research Note summarised the findings of a study into the feasibility of improving access to inland waters for canoeing by voluntary agreement. Case studies were conducted on four rivers in England and involved extensive negotiation with landowners as well as national and local stakeholders. The study concluded that, for voluntary access agreements to succeed, a champion or group of champions was required who would take the lead in drawing together all of the interest groups and oversee the negotiation process and any resulting agreement. Without a motivated champion, it was considered unlikely that any sort of agreement would be reached. The champion might be a user, a local landowner or possibly a project officer supported by national or local government. The study also concluded that a strategic framework should be developed to guide future investment and effort to extend access for canoeing.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much the Countryside Agency paid Brighton University to undertake a study into existing practices for canoeists using inland waters; and if she will make a statement on the feasibility of formal voluntary agreements to increase access to inland waters for canoeists; [181370]

(2) what the cost was of the feasibility study undertaken by the Countryside Agency into increasing access to inland waters for canoeists. [181371]

Alun Michael: The feasibility study on improving access for canoeing on inland waterways by voluntary agreement was awarded to Brighton University following competitive tender. The total value of the research was £100,000. This included an examination of existing practice in the four pilot areas selected for the study. The research concludes that the voluntary approach can be made to work in certain circumstances and recommends completing agreements in the four pilot areas. As a first step I am arranging for a cost-benefit analysis to be carried out.

Farm Subsidies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of agricultural subsidy went to *(a)* dairy, *(b)* beef, *(c)* sheep, *(d)* mixed and *(e)* arable farming in (i) the North-West, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in the last year for which figures are available. [180424]

Alun Michael: The Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) payment systems do not separately record the type of agricultural concern. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the RPA is able to provide the following information relating to the number and value of claims paid to farmers in Lancashire, the North-West and England.

Area	*Number of claims*	*Value (£)*
Lancashire	2,639	23,156,928.16
North West	10,349	119,273,894.47
England	89,264	1,344,500,373.94

The total value of claims paid under the various bovine, sheep and arable schemes for England is set out in the following table.

£

Scheme	*Value*
Arable Area Payments	869,198,056.32
Arable Agrimonetary Aid	175,466.06
Beef Agrimonetary Aid	503,250.31
Beef National Envelope	14,621,949.50
Beef Special Premium	116,372,542.98
Extensification	55,266,107.70
Hill Farming Allowance	39,159,843.27
Milk	263,043.48
Sheep Annual Premium	104,874,363.13
Suckler Cow Premium	77,209,138.58

£

Scheme	Value
Sheep Agrimonetary Aid	7,899.06
Slaughter Premium	66,848,713.55
Total	1,344,500,373.94

All of the above figures relate to the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund 2003 accounting year which ran from 16 October 2002 to 15 October 2003.

Glyphosate

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the decision by the Swedish authorities to prohibit the use of liquid and spray forms of glyphosate. [180383]

Alun Michael: Glyphosate was recently assessed by all member states as part of the on-going EC Review Programme for all existing active substances used in plant protection products. The Swedish decision was based on concerns about the contamination of ground water following use on hard surfaces. This concern was reflected in the result of the review which stipulated that member states must pay particular attention to the protection of ground water in vulnerable areas, especially with respect to non-crop uses.

The UK is currently assessing applications for product approvals for glyphosate taking account of this condition.

Tenant Farmers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of agricultural subsidy was paid to tenant farmers in the last year for which figures are available. [180105]

Alun Michael: The Rural Payments Agency's Integrated Administration and Control System does not separately record the status of applicants so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Traffic Regulation Orders

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many traffic regulation orders have been taken out on bridleways and other footpaths in the last three years. [180106]

Alun Michael: This information is not held centrally. I have asked officials to obtain information from local authorities on this issue but the information received is not easy to reduce to statistical analysis since traffic restricting orders can vary from application for very small stretches of a right of way to longer or more complex stretches.

TRANSPORT

Rail Strike

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he will take to minimise the effects of the planned rail strike. [181128]

Mr. McNulty: Following further discussions between Network Rail and the unions, the strikes on the national rail network planned for this week have been called off.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Home Buying and Selling Advisory Group

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1031W, on meetings of the Home Buying and Selling Advisory Group, what the *(a)* remit, *(b)* planned work load for the next two years, *(c)* total budget for 2004–05, *(d)* cost to his Department for 2004–05, *(e)* staff cost for 2004–05 and *(f)* administration costs for 2004–05 are for (i) the Home Buying and Selling Forum and (ii) the Central Stakeholder Group; and if he will make a statement. [180286]

Keith Hill: The Home Buying and Selling Forum is primarily a discussion group, which allows the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to update a wide range of stakeholders on the progress of home information packs and gain their views on the programme of work leading up to implementation. It is envisaged that this group will meet approximately every three months for two hours.

The Central Stakeholder Group is a small group of key industry and consumer stakeholders who are tasked with advising the Programme Board and the Ministerial Task Group on the programme of work required for the successful implementation of home information packs. It is envisaged that this group will meet approximately every two months for two hours.

Meetings of both groups are hosted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which take place in one of our buildings and the costs fall within our general administration and staff budget, there is no separate budget for these groups. We estimate that the total cost to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is approximately £1,000 per Home Buying and Selling Forum meeting and £720 per Central Stakeholder Group meeting, this includes staff and administration costs.

This reorganisation of stakeholder involvement in the home buying and selling reform programme will help ensure that everything is in place for the smooth introduction of home information packs throughout England and Wales.

Housing

Mr. Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the role is of the South West Regional Housing Authority in the provision of more affordable housing in Salisbury District. [180780]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Sustainable Communities Plan, published in February 2003, established Regional Housing Boards (RHBs) in each of the nine English regions. The Communities Plan set out that RHBs would ensure regional housing strategies are co-ordinated with economic and planning strategies, allowing sub-regional approaches to housing problems extending beyond individual local authority boundaries. Another key task for RHBs is the preparation of regional housing strategies as the basis for advice to Ministers on the strategic housing investment priorities in the region.

Affordable housing is the South West Housing Body's number one priority. It announced on 24 March this year how £188.2 million will be invested over the next two years to deliver over 6,000 affordable homes. 20 per cent. of this programme will be used to support a range of Low Cost Home Ownership schemes, such as shared equity and Homebuy. The overall allocation for the South West of £95 million in financial year 2004–05 represents a 17 per cent. increase over 2003–04.

For Salisbury district council in particular the South West Housing Body, through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme, has allocated £2.1 million over the 2004–05 and 2005–06 financial years. This should deliver around 67 affordable homes in the district. Between 2000–01 and 2003–04 more than £4.9 million in Approved Development Programme funds have been allocated within Salisbury district delivering 170 affordable homes.

It is the responsibility of Salisbury district council to ensure that the provision of affordable housing is made on the basis of robust local assessments of needs. A demonstrable lack of affordable housing to meet local needs is a material planning consideration, which should be taken into account in formulating development plan policies and in deciding planning applications involving housing. The Government have issued guidance on how to undertake local housing needs and market assessments.

The Housing Corporation, who are also a member of each RHB and are responsible for investing public money in Housing Associations, have direct role in the provision of affordable housing and work closely with each individual local authority and their partner Housing Associations.

Martin Linton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many new homes were built by or for registered social landlords in each London borough between April 2000 and April 2004. [181225]

Keith Hill: The Housing Corporation report the following new build by and for Registered Social Landlords in London local authorities for the period April 2000 to April 2004:

	New build completions			
Local authority	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Barking and Dagenham	103	39	7	8
Barnet	96	116	16	22
Bexley	51	11	43	132
Brent	311	278	78	68
Bromley	113	48	32	243
Camden	102	69	14	66
Corporation of London	0	4	0	162
Croydon	142	220	49	125
Ealing	171	96	43	222
Enfield	250	382	46	256
Greenwich	176	224	102	586
Hackney	255	204	150	482
Hammersmith and Fulham	179	34	15	488
Haringey	137	181	54	349
Harrow	97	50	27	111
Havering	22	191	9	56
Hillingdon	263	147	10	168
Hounslow	54	164	7	327
Islington	243	120	117	315
Kensington and Chelsea	25	58	17	236
Kingston upon Thames	117	34	7	55
Lambeth	121	173	57	364
Lewisham	186	192	131	303
Merton	70	68	4	62
Newham	134	191	122	304
Redbridge	103	172	23	161
Richmond upon Thames	49	28	6	109
Southwark	259	213	112	340
Sutton	219	142	38	145
Tower Hamlets	152	280	63	336
Waltham Forest	197	136	47	97
Wandsworth	69	106	37	108
Westminster	337	322	51	210

This includes reported new build by the private sector under section 106 agreements.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total level of affordable housing stock was in *(a)* 1 January 1997 and *(b)* 1 January 2004. [154903]

Yvette Cooper: The following table sets out social housing stock for rent and social housing part-owned by Housing Associations under the Shared Ownership Scheme or the Leasehold Scheme for the Elderly:

	1997	*2003*
Local authority-owned social housing for rent[1]	3,401,000	2,457,000
Housing Association-owned social housing for rent[2]	1,073,000	1,738,000
Social housing part-owned by Housing Associations, part-owned by the occupiers[3]	81,000	88,000
Total social housing stock	4,555,000	4,283,000

[1] Derived from the Department's annual Housing Investment Programme returns from local authorities—self-contained units plus bed spaces as at 1 April.

[2] Derived from the Housing Corporation's annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR)—self-contained units plus bed spaces as at 31 March. An addition has been made to the 2003 figures to reflect the late transfer (on 31 March 2003) of stock in North Hertfordshire and the Forest of Dean from local authority ownership to housing association ownership.

[3] Also derived from the Housing Corporation's RSR. The figures are the total number of units part-owned by Housing Associations under the Shared Ownership Scheme or the Leasehold Scheme for the Elderly.

In 1997 the Government inherited a £19 billion backlog of renovation and improvement work to local authority housing stock, caused by years of under-investment. Since then local authorities are estimated to have invested £14 billion in their existing stock, the majority of which has come from central Government funding. Another £9 billion has been invested in affordable housing. In total, housing capital investment has tripled since 1997, with approaching £10 billion

being made available for all housing capital investment between 2004–06. However, there have also been significant increases in land prices and construction costs in a rising market that affect the levels of new affordable housing and refurbishment.

New Buildings (Regulations)

Bob Russell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what minimum depth is specified under Building Regulations for foundations of new buildings of *(a)* one storey and *(b)* two storeys. [181754]

Phil Hope: The current edition of Approved Document A, "Structure", advising on how to meet the requirements of the Building Regulations does not give any guidance on the minimum depth for foundations, but a revised document published on 29 June 2004 on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website does give some guidance on these. This will come into force on 1 December 2004.

The guidance recommends that strip foundations to dwellings up to three storeys in height should be founded at a minimum depth of 450mm to avoid the action of frost on the ground, increasing to 750mm minimum in the case of clay soils. For such buildings the number of storeys will have little influence on the depth of foundation, but may affect their width. The guidance also recommends that consideration should also be taken of anticipated ground movement caused by the presence of nearby trees and vegetation on the stability of the building.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total cost to public funds is to date of surveying, assessing and analysing levels of support for and opposition to elected regional assemblies in the *(a)* North East, *(b)* North West and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber region. [180948]

Mr. Raynsford: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has sponsored a module of questions within the British Social Attitudes (BSA) Survey in 2002 and 2003 at a cost of £15,000 and £16,800 respectively. The module has asked questions across England about public attitudes to regional issues, including: awareness of existing institutions, and perceptions of, and attitudes towards, regional devolution and regional assemblies. The results for 2002 were published in November 2003 but results for 2003 are not yet publicly available; they are scheduled to be published in November 2004 in accord with the usual BSA reporting timetable.

WOMEN

Gender Pay Gap

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister for Women what the difference in pay was between *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time male and female workers in each year since 1997 in (i) the UK and (ii) each region. [181041]

Ms Hewitt *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The following table shows *(a)* the full-time hourly pay gap and *(b)* the part-time hourly pay gap (measured as the difference in hourly pay between women working part-time and men working full-time) in the United Kingdom since 1997:

Percentage

	Full-time pay gap		*Part-time pay gap*
	Mean	*Median*	*Mean*
1997	19.8	16.3	41.0
1998	20.0	16.2	40.7
1999	19.1	15.2	40.0
2000	18.9	14.9	40.1
2001	18.5	14.1	41.2
2002	18.8	14.1	40.9
2003	18.0	12.7	39.4

The following table shows the full-time mean hourly pay gap by region in since 1997:

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
North East	17.1	19.3	17.0	15.1	15.9	15.4	12.7
North West	20.1	21.4	20.6	20.4	17.6	17.3	15.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	17.3	17.4	16.3	16.1	14.3	14.2	14.3
East Midlands	20.9	20.7	20.1	18.6	17.4	18.5	16.4
West Midlands	20.1	21.4	20.3	19.2	19.8	17.2	16.5
South West	21.0	19.6	19.0	19.0	19.5	17.1	17.9
East	17.8	17.7	18.6	19.6	19.2	19.1	21.1
London	23.4	23.3	22.7	22.7	22.8	24.2	23.5
South East	21.6	22.6	21.6	21.7	21.9	23.1	20.2
England	19.8	20.1	19.4	19.1	18.7	19.0	18.4
Wales	17.4	16.3	14.0	13.4	12.1	13.4	12.5
Scotland	19.8	21.3	18.9	19.4	16.8	18.6	15.6
United Kingdom	19.8	20.0	19.1	18.9	18.5	18.8	18.0

The following table shows the part-time mean hourly pay gap by region since 1997:

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2992*	*2003*
North East	39.1	38.2	37.7	35.7	35.7	35.7	32.4
North West	38.7	38.0	37.1	34.9	38.4	37.9	35.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	38.2	37.8	35.9	35.3	35.1	35.2	34.8
East Midlands	37.1	37.7	38.7	37.1	37.9	38.6	37.8

Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2992	2003
West Midlands	38.9	39.5	39.0	38.1	39.1	37.7	36.1
South West	39.7	37.5	36.9	36.0	38.3	35.7	34.9
East	39.0	39.7	38.2	38.5	38.5	40.0	39.6
London	45.7	45.1	45.2	48.1	50.9	48.8	46.3
South East	40.8	41.8	41.1	42.2	42.3	42.8	41.2
England	41.5	43.9	40.6	40.7	44.9	41.7	40.2
Wales	36.4	37.8	34.4	35.7	33.0	33.9	32.7
Scotland	39.6	38.0	37.2	36.2	36.0	37.1	36.8
United Kingdom	41.0	40.7	40.0	40.1	41.2	40.9	39.4

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Access to Justice

Nick Harvey: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs in which *(a)* local authority areas, *(b)* Legal Services Commission bid zones and *(c)* Community Legal Service partnerships areas no firms have yet bid for Legal Services Commission contracts; and what plans he has for improving access to justice in civil law disputes for the socially excluded in such areas. [181142]

Mr. Lammy: The Legal Service Commission's (LSC) framework for contract award evaluation is based on the needs and priorities for funding identified in Regional Legal Services Committee reports. Contracts have been let in all Community Legal Service Partnership areas and in 409 of 411 bid zones—the exceptions being two very small localities, (Rutland & Oadby and Wigston) both of which have contracted suppliers providing services within a reasonable travelling distance. The LSC Regional office is also currently investigating how supply in Rutland can be improved through suppliers from Leicester undertaking outreach work.

Contracts do not cover all categories of law in each bid zone; the demand for services in many areas, particularly more rural or affluent areas, would not justify that. The lack of a contracted supplier offering legal services in any category of law in a bid zone, does not necessarily constitute unmet need or prevent access to justice as there may be other, more suitable ways of dealing with problems that arise such as outreach, telephone or website advice.

Community Legal Service

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many applications for public funding relating to environmental matters were submitted to the Community Legal Service in each year between 1997 to 2003; how many and what proportion were in receipt of public funding; and what the average proportion of total costs covered by the Funding Certificate was. [181513]

Mr. Lammy: The Legal Services Commission is unable to answer the question. "Environmental matters" is not recognised as a specific category of law under which Funding Certificates are granted, therefore, there is no way of recording which cases seeking or receiving public funding involve environmental issues.

However, a range of environmental cases are funded under the legal aid scheme, many of which receive public funding on public interest grounds.

Departmental Staff

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total amount paid by his Department to employment agencies for the supply of temporary staff was in financial year 2003–04. [178912]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has a national contract for the provision of agency workers.

Information relating to workers employed through other agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information regarding the national contract for this financial year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 is provided in the table.

My Department uses agency workers to meet short-term requirements and in areas where it is difficult to recruit and retain staff.

Use of DCA national contract for provision of agency workers April 2003 to March 2004

	£
Department for Constitutional Affairs and Associated Offices	1,326,000
Court Service—including the Immigration Appellate Authority	3,923,000

Marriages

Andrew Selous: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what proportion of United Kingdom marriages took place in *(a)* registry offices and *(b)* churches and other places of worship in the last year for which data are available. [181296]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Andrew Selous, dated 30 June 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of marriages that took place in *(a)* register offices and *(b)* churches and other places of worship, in the UK in the last year for which data are available. I am replying in his absence. (181296)

The numbers and proportions of marriages that took place in the United Kingdom in 2002 by manner of solemnisation are shown in the table below.

	Number	*Percentage*
Civil ceremony marriages	182,098	62
Religious ceremony marriages	109,727	38
All marriages	291,825	100

In England and Wales, marriages conducted with a civil ceremony can be solemnised either in a register office or in an "Approved Premises".

In Scotland religious marriages need not be solemnised in churches or other places of worship and during 2002 legislation came into effect that allowed civil marriages to be solemnised in approved places other than register offices.

In Northern Ireland all civil marriages are celebrated in register offices, and all religious marriages are solemnised in churches, chapels and other buildings registered to perform marriages.

It should also be noted that in each country a very small number of marriages are solemnised in prisons, hospitals and similar locations under special regulations, enabled by the Registrar General's Licence.

For marriages in England and Wales in 2002, the (provisional) numbers and proportions are shown in the table below.

	Number	*Percentage*
Civil ceremony marriages in:		
Register offices	106,950	42
Approved premises	61,580	24
All civil ceremony marriages	168,530	66
Religious ceremony marriages	85,870	34
All marriages	254,400	100

Pre-emptive Cost Orders

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs on how many occasions in each year since 1997 a pre-emptive cost order has been applied for and approved by *(a)* the High Court, *(b)* the Court of Appeal, *(c)* the House of Lords and *(d)* the Privy Council for (i) an environmental case and (ii) in total. [181429]

Mr. Leslie: The information requested is not collected centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Rights and Duties

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what relative weighting is given to *(a)* the duties of Her Majesty's subjects and *(b)* the rights of Her Majesty's subjects is in deciding on departmental priorities. [180940]

Mr. Lammy: My Department determines its priorities in the context of all its responsibilities in accordance with the Government's policies and priorities.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs to which rights his departmental strapline refers. [180941]

Mr. Lammy: The term "rights" in My Department's strapline is intended to reflect the Department's responsibility for various pieces of legislation, including the Human Rights Act and the Freedom of Information Act, as well as our responsibility to ensure access to justice for all.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs who *(a)* proposed and *(b)* authorised the Department's strapline. [180942]

Mr. Lammy: The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor proposed the Department's strapline and following consultation with officials gave his authorisation.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs for what reason his Department's strapline makes no reference to a subject's obligations. [180943]

Mr. Lammy: My Department's strapline is intended to be a brief description of the Department's responsibilities that is easy to understand. It is not intended to be comprehensive and should not be seen as such. However, "rights" includes the rights of other individuals and of the community. It is not possible to secure full enjoyment of our fundamental rights without the development of a culture of respect for them and this necessarily entails obligations.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education Maintenance Allowances

Brian Cotter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many extra people in Weston-super-Mare he expects to stay in education as a result of the introduction of education maintenance allowances; and what plans he has to provide extra funding to further education colleges in the town in order to support these extra students. [176977]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We estimate there will be about 2,800 extra 16-year-olds in the South-West Region in further education this September who would not be participating without EMA. We are unable to provide forecasts of the number of EMA students down to constituency level.

The Department allocates funds to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the provision of education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector. Assumed funding for further education allocated to the LSC was £4,732 million in 2003–04; is £5,174 million in 2004–05; and is £5,579 million in 2005–06.

The funding for 2003–04 represents a £390 million increase over 2002–03. This is followed by further increases of £442 million in 2004–05; and £405 million in 2005–06.

The Department does not provide a specific budget to the LSC for individual colleges. It is for the Learning and Skills Council to determine for itself the right level of investment in institutions from the funds allocated to it for learning participation.

Ministers have agreed to make available additional funds towards the implementation costs of the EMA Scheme. A payment of £70 per EMA student will be awarded to all

schools and colleges with 10 or more EMA students as a contribution towards implementation and on-going administration costs for the first year of the scheme.

Local Education Authority Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the *(a)* management, *(b)* administration and *(c)* overhead cost per pupil for each local education authority in England. [165380]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prostitution

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned on the factors which influence the demand for prostitution in the UK. [181082]

Caroline Flint: None directly.

ASBOs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been issued in the constituency of Tamworth. [179963]

Ms Blears: Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) have been available to the courts since 1 April 1999. From commencement, up to 31 December 2003 (latest available), the Home Office has been notified of two ASBOs issued within Tamworth borough council area and one within Lichfield district council area (parts of which make up the Tamworth constituency).

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the registered social landlords who have implemented anti-social behaviour orders; and how many anti-social behaviour orders each has issued. [180030]

Ms Blears: The Police Reform Act (December 2002) empowered registered social landlords to apply for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) directly. Data are collected on the type of applicant only on those orders issued in the magistrates' court, acting in its civil capacity, and within the county courts. Orders can also be made following conviction of an offence in the criminal courts—here is no applicant for these orders.

From 1 December 2002 up to 31 December 2003 (latest available), registered social landlords, as notified to the Home Office, had successfully applied for 21 ASBOs. None were refused in this period. A breakdown by individual landlord is given in the table.

Registered social landlords, who successfully applied for anti-social behaviour orders, as notified to the home office, by the number of applications up to 31 December 2003

MCC area	*Registered social landlord*	*Number of ASBOs applied for and issued*
Cheshire	Weaver Vale Housing Trust Ltd. (Vale Royal)	1
GLMCA	Beaver Housing Society (Croydon)	2
Greater Manchester	Irwell Valley Housing Association Ltd. (Manchester)	7
Lancashire	Burnley and Padham Community Housing Ltd. (Burnley)	1
Merseyside	Leasowe Community Homes (Birkenhead)	1
West Midlands	Bromford Housing Group (Sandwell)	1
West Yorkshire	Aire Wharfe Community Housing Trust (Bradford)	1
Wiltshire	Shaftesbury Housing Association (Salisbury)	1
Total		21

Asian Gangs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the new unit established by the Metropolitan Police to deal with gang crime in the Asian community. [180017]

Ms Blears: The Metropolitan police plans to set up a specialist unit to target the growing problem of serious crime within the South Asian community in London. The new police unit will be modelled on Operation Trident—the team that has had considerable success in tackling black-on-black gun crime in the capital.

The Metropolitan police have considerable experience of working in partnership with the community and I welcome this development which will build on that approach.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest average time is for an asylum application to be processed. [180008]

Mr. Browne: The latest published statistics show that the speed of processing asylum applications continues to improve. 80 per cent. of substantive applications (excluding withdrawals and 3rd country cases[1]) received in the period April to December 2003 had initial decisions reached and served within two months, compared with 74 per cent. of applications in 2002–03, and 61 per cent. of applications in 2001–02. This exceeded the Government's targets of 65 per cent. for 2002–03 and 60 per cent. for 2001–02, and we are on track to exceed the target of 75 per cent. for 2003–04.

Information on the timeliness of initial decisions for new substantive applications is published quarterly on the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

[1] Cases which may be the responsibility of other EU member states under the Dublin Convention.

Correspondence

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 20th February, from the right hon. Member for

Manchester, Withington, on behalf of his constituent Leah Johanna de Quattro and the Unicom Grocery Workers Cooperative. [180701]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 28 June.

Crime Reduction

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will request interim statements from projects funded under the Crime Reduction Programme concerned with the effectiveness of support measures for victims of domestic violence in time for the findings of these projects to be considered during the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Bill *(a)* committee and *(b)* report and third reading stages. [179711]

Ms Blears: The findings from the first round projects in the Crime Reduction Violence Against Women Initiatives are due to be published in the autumn as an overview research report. A series of concise practitioner focused guides which aim to highlight good practice are also planned to be published during the second half of 2004. The first of these guides called 'Safety and Justice: sharing personal information in the context of domestic violence—an overview' was published on 28 April 2004. Unfortunately it is not possible to publish findings to an earlier timetable.

Crime Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime levels were for each category of crime in *(a)* May 1993 and *(b)* May 1997. [180027]

Ms Blears: The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a Home Office face-to-face interview survey with a large representative sample of men and women aged 16 or over living in private households in England and Wales. Each respondent provides information on their experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to their interview. For the offences that it covers, the BCS gives a more complete estimate of crime in England and Wales than police-recorded crime since it covers both unreported and unrecorded crime.

The following table shows results from the 1994 BCS (covering crime in 1993) and the 1998 BCS (covering crime in 1997) for the categories of burglary, all vehicle thefts, all BCS violence and all BCS crime. Further crime categories can be found in Table 3.01 of HOSB 07/03 and Table A2.1 of HOSB 18/01.

Number of BCS incidents of crime, 1993 and 1997 (in thousands)

	1993	*1997*
Burglary	1,772	1,621
All vehicle thefts	4,338	3,511
All BCS violence	3,601	3,675
All BCS crime	18,485	16,711

1. All BCS violence includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft.

2. Figures may differ from those previously published due to revisions in population and number of household estimates.

Source:

1994 and 1998 BCS.

Crime/Policing (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many CCTVs operate in Chorley; and if he will make a statement on their effect in the fight against crime in Chorley. [180412]

Ms Blears: There are currently 34 CCTV cameras operating within the Chorley borough council area which mainly focus on the town centre and car parks. There are a further nine cameras due to be operational by the end of June 2004. The borough also has one mobile CCTV vehicle, which is deployed to problem areas as and when needed.

Chorley has an effective Community Safety Partnership, with committed partners, which has achieved significant successes. They currently have the lowest burglary rate for 10 years and vehicle crime has dropped by 12 per cent. over the last year.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on Lancashire's Neighbourhood Watch and its future. [180420]

Ms Blears: The Lancashire Neighbourhood Watch Association (LNWA) is an excellent organisation which deserves much credit for its co-ordination of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the county and its good working relationship with Lancashire Constabulary.

LNWA's plans for the future include increasing Neighbourhood Watch representation at district level. They are also creating a website due to be launched later in the year, which will improve communication between community beat managers and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

I am very appreciative of the successful partnership working and active citizenship that is demonstrated by the members of LNWA.

The Home Office will shortly be consulting with the LNWA, among other local and regional Neighbourhood Watch representatives, about the future development of Neighbourhood Watch generally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on Neighbourhood Watch in Chorley; and how many Neighbourhood Watch schemes there are in Chorley. [180421]

Ms Blears: Lancashire Constabulary have on record 280 Watch schemes, run by 209 registered co-ordinators which cover 9,554 properties in Chorley.

The range of community safety schemes in Chorley is impressive. It includes a Good Citizenship Football tournament for young people, Help the Aged 24-hour response system and the Tatton Community Project. This demonstrates that Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch Association (CADNWA) is at the forefront of taking forward innovative ways to reduce crime and promote active citizenship.

I particularly commend CADNWA's partnership with the British Transport Police in setting up Watch schemes for railway stations in the area. These are the first of their kind in the country and provide a model that could be successfully replicated elsewhere.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Lancashire Neighbourhood Watch Association about the future of the Association. [179350]

Ms Blears: I responded on 15 June 2004 to my hon. Friend's letter of 19 May on behalf of the chairman of the Lancashire Neighbourhood Watch Association (LNWA).

In terms of the future, the Home Office intends to consult with the LNWA, as well as other local and regional representatives of the Neighbourhood Watch movement, in the coming months about the potential development of Neighbourhood Watch.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the *(a)* National Neighbourhood Watch Association and *(b)* (i) county and (ii) local associations are to continue to be permitted to use the Neighbourhood Watch logo. [179351]

Ms Blears: The Neighbourhood Watch logo is Crown Copyright. It has always been Home Office policy that the logo ought to be widely available to be used for legitimate purposes which are in the interest of community safety.

We have treated any request to use that logo, whether from the National Neighbourhood Watch Association (NNWA) or from other Neighbourhood Watch organisations, with this policy in mind. Unfortunately, the situation has been complicated by the fact that the NNWA has registered the various Neighbourhood Watch logos as its own trade marks.

The Home Office is seeking to regain ownership and control of the Neighbourhood Watch logo so that all legitimate organisations can continue to use it as before.

Police Standards Unit

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed at the Police Standards Unit. [180116]

Ms Blears: The Police Standards Unit currently employs 82.2 full-time equivalent members of staff.

Racism

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department discussed proposed changes to policy on the creation of a National Action Plan against Racism with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister; and if he will make a statement. [180920]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Government have recently published their consultation document, "Strength in Diversity", seeking views on their plans for a strategy on community cohesion and race equality. The Government will review the need for a national action plan against racism once that strategy is launched. The Home Office has been in regular contact with the Office for the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on the development of the strategy.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Amateur Sports Clubs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Department takes to inform amateur sports clubs of the tax breaks available to them. [181324]

Mr. Caborn: I recently visited a cricket club that has registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club, in order to raise awareness of the generous tax breaks that this scheme gives to sports clubs that make their facilities available to the community. DCMS officials are working on other initiatives to publicise the CASC scheme, including a leafleting campaign that will target sports clubs eligible to register as CASCs.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of amateur sport clubs which are not taking advantage of *(a)* tax benefits and *(b)* gift aid; and if she will make a statement. [181327]

Mr. Caborn: The Department estimates that as many as 40,000 amateur sports clubs could qualify for registration as Community Amateur Sports Clubs, and for the tax benefits, including gift aid relief on donations from individuals, that this status confers.

Although the number of clubs that have registered with the scheme stands at just over 1,500, I am encouraged that the rate of take-up is accelerating rapidly as more clubs become aware of the generous package of benefits that they are missing out on. The total of registrations has more than doubled since the end of February 2004.

CABE

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of *(a)* connection between the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Stanhope plc, *(b)* the scope for conflict of interest between CABE commissioners and their outside commercial interests and *(c)* links between property development companies and CABE commissioners. [181413]

Mr. Caborn: These matters were examined in the report of the independent audit published on 17 June, "Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, audit of conflicts of interest, June 2004", HC 678. Copies of the report were placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and it is available from the Department's website, www.culture.gov.uk.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service work force in her Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180180]

Mr. Caborn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1292–93W.

Greek Culture Minister

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she next expects to meet the Greek Culture Minister; and what matters have been placed on the draft agenda. [179792]

Estelle Morris: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State hopes that a meeting with the Greek Culture Minister will be arranged when she is in Athens from 10 to 15 August. No meeting has been confirmed as yet, and there is not yet a draft agenda.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will discuss the inter-country loaning of museum assets with the Greek Culture Minister. [179821]

Estelle Morris: There has been no approach from the current Greek Culture Minister requesting such a discussion. With regard to the loan policies of our museums, both national and regional, these are of course a matter for those museums, subject to the relevant legislation.

World Heritage Sites

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the world heritage sites in the UK. [181753]

Mr. Caborn: The UK has 25 world heritage sites of which 22 are located within the UK mainland. A break-down of these sites and the years in which they were inscribed is in the table.

Year inscribed	*Sites*
1986	Ironbridge Gorge
1986	Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites
1987	Blenheim Palace and Park
1987	Palace of Westminster, St. Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey
1987	City of Bath
1987	Hadrian's Wall
1989	The Tower of London
1988	Canterbury Cathedral (with St. Augustine's Abbey and St. Martin's Church)
1986	Castle and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd
1986	St. Kilda
1986	Giant's Causeway and Causeway coast
1996	Edinburgh Old and New Towns
1997	Maritime Greenwich
1999	Heart of Neolithic Orkney
2000	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
2001	Dorset and East Devon Coast
2001	Derwent Valley Mills
2001	New Lanark
2001	Saltaire
2003	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chagos Islands

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what cost estimate his Department has *(a)* prepared and *(b)* received relating to the resettlement of the Chagos Islands since 2002. [180830]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The Department for International Development has neither prepared nor received any estimate of costs for resettlement of these islands.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what studies his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned to identify possible commercial interests and commercial investment in the Chagos Islands. [180832]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The Department for International Development has neither conducted nor commissioned such studies.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has held with the European Development Fund of the European Union to establish the possibility of EDF funding for resettlement of the Chagos Islands. [180833]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: There have been no such discussions with the European Union.

Civil Service (Relocation)

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants and what percentage of the total Civil Service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180174]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: DFID is relocating 85 jobs from London to East Kilbride over the next five years, or five per cent. of its total Civil Service workforce of 1822. No jobs are being relocated to the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

This latest relocation continues DFID's policy of decentralising from London to East Kilbride and overseas. Currently 67 per cent. of all DFID staff work outside London.

Darfur

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the safety of UN-sponsored workers in Darfur. [181381]

Hilary Benn: I regard the safety and security of humanitarian workers as paramount. This includes staff working for the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as NGOs. To that end DFID has contributed £500,000 to UNDP and UNICEF for UNSECOORD (UN Security Co-ordination System) to undertake work on security and staff safety throughout Sudan including Darfur. We continue to support the provision of essential equipment and resources to ensure that all UN operations are compliant with UN Minimum Operating Safety Standards. In addition, our support for NGOs includes provision of essential communications equipment.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he is having with *(a)* the UN and *(b)* the African Union on plans to put in place post-conflict reconstruction, including rural development schemes, in Darfur. [181380]

Hilary Benn: I have not had any discussions with either the UN or the African Union about plans to put in place post-conflict reconstruction, including rural development schemes, in Darfur. The international community is focused on the severity of the immediate humanitarian crisis that we face in Darfur. DFID's priorities in discussion with the UN have been to ensure an effective response to the immediate needs, which are all the more urgent because of the onset of the rainy season. With the African Union, my discussions have focused on how to meet the immediate priority of deployment of the African Union-led Ceasefire Commission for Darfur.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff were employed by the Department in *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04, in terms of (i) total staff and (ii) staff years, broken down by key headings in the Department's Annual Report. [180596]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: Details of DFID staff numbers (in each of the categories set out in the Department's Annual Report) for 2002–03 and 2003–04 are contained in the following table:

Staff type	*Number in 2002–2003*	*Staff years in 2002–2003*	*Number in 2003–2004*	*Staff years in 2003–2004*
Home Civil Service staff in London and Overseas Offices[1]	1126	1110.7	1307	1289.7
Home Civil Service staff in East Kilbride Office	515	489.4	515	490.3
Staff appointed in UK on fixed-term contracts for development assistance projects[2]	60	60	32	32
Staff Appointed in Country by overseas offices[2]	874	874	914	914
Staff appointed overseas on fixed-term contracts for development assistance	199	199	117	117
Total	2774	2733.1	2885	2843.0

[1] Information on our Home Civil Service (HCS) staff numbers at 1 April each year, is supplied via formal returns to the Cabinet Office. Our overseas HCS staff numbers are included with our London staff figures. A split of these figures between London and overseas is not required by Cabinet Office and is not readily available.

[2] Information on staff years in these categories is not held and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Staff in these categories are shown as working a full staff year.

Iraq

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether Iraq is classified as a *(a)* Least Developed Country and *(b)* Middle-Income Country; and when an assessment was last made of its status. [180550]

Hilary Benn: Iraq does not have a Least Developed Country status. The United Nations' list of Least Developed Countries is reviewed every three years.

Iraq was last classified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as a Lower Middle-Income Country, based on 2001 GNI per capita data produced by the World Bank.

The World Bank estimates Iraq's per capita GDP in 2003 to have been between US$480 to $630; i.e. low enough to put it in the low-income category. GDP is, however, expected to grow rapidly over the coming years. GDP per head was as high as US$3,600 in the early 1980s.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has pledged to women's organisations operating in Iraq; and how much has been distributed since March 2003. [181080]

Hilary Benn: Since March 2003 DFID has provided £500,000 to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to develop and implement a strategy for empowering women in Iraq, strengthen women's groups and encourage government to take proper account of the needs of women. DFID has also provided £106,000 for a project providing assistance to vulnerable women in Northern Iraq.

DFID has recently approved funding to support political representation and participation by all Iraqi citizens, particularly women, and to strengthen the capacity of Iraq's civil society organisations to represent vulnerable groups. These funds will be available to support a range of initiatives, including promoting the role of women in Iraqi society.

Resource Allocation

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what quantitative data were used to rank multilateral agencies for effectiveness in the Strategic Review of Resource Allocation Priorities of January 2003, section 3.3. [180600]

Hilary Benn: DFID is developing its own system for measuring and scoring the relative effectiveness of multilateral agencies. This is done with reference to eight corporate organisational systems, and three measures of each system. The scoring system is a modified version of the balanced scorecard, similar to that used by many UK Government Departments. It is designed to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of each multilateral and a focused group of measures to be monitored over the next three years.

Sudan/Chad

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support he is offering the government of Chad to deal with the current humanitarian situation. [181410]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development does not have a bilateral programme in Chad. However, DFID is providing significant humanitarian assistance to Chad in response to the refugee humanitarian crisis. Our assistance has been channelled through multi-lateral organisations. This support has included £2 million to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), providing emergency assistance to Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. The thrust of this support is to ensure basic humanitarian

needs are met, but also the relocation of refugees away from the border, where they remain at risk from attack. Assistance has also included protection, health, shelter and water, education, legal assistance, food distribution and household support. UNHCR are participating actively in efforts by Governments and regional organisations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations to identify and implement political solutions to the problems. They are also co-ordinating with the Chadian Government counterpart, CNAR, and other humanitarian actors to ensure a co-ordinated response to the needs of the Sudanese refugees.

DFID has also provided £1 million financial support to the World Food Programme to assist with the distribution of food aid commodities. The food aid is expected to reach £72,500 people, 60,000 of who are refugees in North East Chad. Further support in the region is envisaged.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he is offering to the African Union monitoring teams in the Sudan. [180735]

Hilary Benn: DFID has already contributed £2 million to the African Union-led Ceasefire Commission for Darfur, and we are working to provide a British monitor to join the mission.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the latest figure is for financial support for humanitarian assistance in Darfur. [180736]

Hilary Benn: The latest total figure for humanitarian assistance to Darfur was released by the UN on 27 June. Their report of 27 June 2004 stated that $319,889,014 (about £170 million) had been pledged by the international community for humanitarian assistance to Darfur and Chad.

Since September 2003, the UK has allocated £34.5 million for humanitarian assistance in response to Darfur. The following table represents funding commitments for interventions that have been agreed with humanitarian agencies. The current total of agreed funding commitments is about £27 million. DFID is currently agreeing further commitments that will reflect our allocation of £34.5 million.

Date	*Agency*	*Description*	*Total cost (£)*
Agreed commitment to UN agencies			
October to December 2003	UNHCR	Supplementary Appeal for Emergency Assistance to Sudanese Refugees in Eastern Chad-2003	1,000,000
March 2004 to January 2005	UNHCR	Emergency Assistance to Sudanese Refugees in Eastern Chad	1,000,000
November 2003 to March 2004	WFP	Additional Contribution to 2003 UN Appeal, due to Crisis in Darfur, to Provide Emergency Food Assistance to Sudanese Populations Affected by War and Natural Disasters	2,000,000
March to December 2004	WFP	Emergency Distribution of Food Aid Commodities to Sudanese Refugees in North East Chad	1,000,000
May to December 2004	WFP	Emergency purchase and distribution of Food Aid for internally displaced Sudanese in Darfur	2,000,000
February to December 2004	UNICEF	Emergency Assistance to Humanitarian Crisis in Darfur for Health; Water Supply; Water and Environmental Sanitation; Relief and Shelter Items; and the Protection of Children	1,000,000
May to December 2004	UNICEF	Additional support to humanitarian assistance for crisis in Darfur; emergency nutrition; emergency health care and the protection of children	1,500,000
May to November 2004	WHO	Emergency primary health care and response to communicable diseases in Darfur; support to measles vaccination programme	1,500,000
May to July 2004	UN Joint Logistics Centre	Support to enable UNJLC to co-ordinate the logistics of an effective humanitarian response in Sudan	250,000
June to September 2004	UNOHCHR	Support to Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights for deployment of Human Rights monitors in Darfur	250,000
Support to the ICRC			
November to December 2003	ICRC	Contribution to the ICRC 2003 Emergency Appeal for Sudan	1,000,000
June to December 2004	ICRC	Contribution to the ICRC 2003 Emergency Appeal for Sudan	2,000,000
Agreed commitment to NGOS			
October 2003 to September 2004	SC-UK	Emergency Response to Conflict Related Internal Displacement in North Darfur	500,000
January to April 2004	MSF-F	Emergency Assistance to IDPs in Darfur—through increasing access to health care in conflict areas, disease prevention, halting nutritional deterioration and treating malnourished children	491,369
June to December 2004	MSF-F	Emergency Assistance to IDPs in Darfur—through increasing access to health care in conflict areas, disease prevention, halting nutritional deterioration and treating malnourished children	1,006,860
January to December 2004	MSF-H	Darfur Components of Emergency Health Interventions in Northern Sudan Project	1,301,822
February to November 2004	GOAL	Emergency Assistance to Population in Kutum Province, North Darfur—through a combined Health, Nutrition and Shelter Intervention	575,963
March to December 2004	ACF	Emergency Nutrition Programme in North Darfur	250,000
March to November 2004	ACF	Emergency Nutrition Programme in North Darfur	623,326
April to December 2004	OXFAM	Public Health Humanitarian Response Darfur (Water/ Sanitation Programme)	2,193,161
May to October 2004	MSF-Belgium	Emergency Health Care for IDPs in North Darfur	671,300
May to October 2004	CARE	Logistics operation to improve access to shelter and non-food items for IDPs in Greater Darfur	603,195

Date	Agency	Description	Total cost (£)
June 2004 to March 2005	International Rescue Committee	Provision of Environmental Health, Primary Health and Child Protection Services for War Affected Communities in North Darfur	728,849
June 2004 to June 2005	SC-US	Emergency Water and Sanitation Intervention in West Darfur	676,206
Secondments			278,759
March to June 2004	OCHA	Secondments of 4 staff (1 Khartoum, 3 in Darfur)	125,000
May to July 2004	UNJLC	Secondment of 3 staff to UNJLC	130,000
June to September 2004	UNICEF	Secondment of 3 staff to UNICEF	230,000
June to September 2004	WHO	Secondment of 3 staff to WHO	
Water			590,000
June 2004 to January 2005	UNICEF	Airlift of one truck-mounted drilling rig and four water tankers	
Non-food items			1,400,822
May to June 2004	WFP	Provision of 264,800m of rope, 31,500 tarpaulins and 86,000 blankets	110,000
June 2004	OCHA	Humanitarian Information Centre	
Total Humanitarian Assistance (DFID) committed to Darfur since September 2003			26,986,632
Africa Conflict Prevention Pool			2,000,000
May 2004	AU Monitoring Mission	Support for swift deployment of AU monitors (from Africa Conflict Prevention Pool)	28,986,632
Total UK response to Darfur to date			

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will press the European Commission to provide funds within two weeks for *(a)* humanitarian aid and *(b)* African Union peace monitors in Darfur, Western Sudan. [180836]

Hilary Benn: I have been in regular contact with colleagues in the European Commission and the African Union about these matters. The European Commission has provided $56,259,990 (c. £30 million) in response to the crisis in Darfur, Western Sudan since September 2003 (reported by the UN on 27 June). This includes $22,649,270 (c. £12 million) from ECHO. DFID is pressing the Commission to increase its contribution to the crisis, including more food aid and additional financial resources from ECHO.

The European Commission has already committed 12 million Euros (c. £8 million) from the Peace Facility to fund African Union peace monitors in Darfur, Western Sudan. This was agreed by the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 June. It represents over 50 per cent. of the costs of the monitors. DFID is pressing the Commission to ensure that these funds can be used by the African Union monitors as soon as possible.

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many ceasefire monitors are deployed in Darfur. [181337]

Hilary Benn: Thirty-four people have now been deployed to the African Union-led ceasefire monitoring mission in Darfur, with a further three working out of Khartoum. More, including six monitors from the EU, are on their way.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the latest estimate is of the numbers of displaced people in *(a)* Sudan and *(b)* Chad as a result of the troubles there. [180731]

Hilary Benn: The UN estimates that over 1.2 million people are internally displaced within Darfur, Western Sudan, as a result of the crisis in Darfur. In addition, the UN estimates that approximately 4 million people are displaced throughout Sudan as a result of the war between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are over 100,000 refugees in eight camps in Chad, and that there are a further 75,000 refugees around the border area who have fled Sudan due to the crisis in Darfur.

Zimbabwe

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action his Department intends to take to help ensure that the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe are fair and open. [180964]

Hilary Benn: The Government of Zimbabwe have informally announced that the next parliamentary elections will be held in March 2005. Responsibility for ensuring that those elections are fair and open rests with the Government of Zimbabwe. Following the 2002 presidential election, international election observers, including the Commonwealth Election Observer Group, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum on Norms and Standards for Elections and other bilateral observer missions, concluded that the legal framework for preparing and conducting elections in Zimbabwe was not conducive to conducting a free and open election.

The Zimbabwe state press earlier this week reported ZANU(PF) proposals for changes in the procedures for Zimbabwean elections. It is too early to say if these proposals will be enacted, and if so, what difference they will make. But it is important to note that the freedom and fairness of elections is a function not only of voting and counting procedures, but also of whether they take place in a climate which permits democratic debate, with a functioning independent media and civil society, and freedom from violence and intimidation.

The UK Government are prepared to work with all parties in Zimbabwe, UN agencies and other donors to help establish a satisfactory electoral framework. This would require all concerned; including the Government of Zimbabwe, to demonstrate a commitment to internationally accepted electoral procedures and standards of democratic debate. So far, the Government of Zimbabwe have not demonstrated this commitment.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Respite Care

9. **Mr. Beggs**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with Home First Community Trust regarding *(a)* the Twilight nursing service and *(b)* respite facilities for adults with learning difficulties in (i) Larne, (ii) Carrickfergus and (iii) Newtownabbey; and if he will make a statement. [180490]

Angela Smith: No discussions have taken place with Home First Community Trust.

Following an evaluation of the Twilight Nursing service in 2002, it was decided to expand and modernise the service. The new service will operate across the Trust area 9 am to 11 pm, and will have additional resources to care for a wider range of patients. An additional £270,000 has been provided to develop the service. Respite care is provided in a number of facilities in Antrim, Larne, Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey and Belfast to which people in the East Antrim area have access. The Trust is also in discussion with Positive Futures to expand home-based family respite provision in the area. A meeting with parents to discuss respite provision is planned for 1 July.

12 July Celebrations

10. **David Burnside**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will attend, as a guest of the hon. Member for South Antrim, the 12 July celebrations of the battle of the Boyne in Ballymoney, County Antrim. [180491]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have no plans to do so.

Undergraduates

11. **Mr. Hume**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the reasons for Northern Ireland being a net exporter of undergraduate students; and if he will make a statement. [180492]

Mr. Gardiner: In 2002–03, full-time NI domiciled undergraduate students who migrated to GB outnumbered inward migrants by a ratio of around four to one. There are a number of factors affecting student migration for higher education, across the United Kingdom and beyond. These include the cap, which Government imposes as a cost control mechanism, on full-time undergraduate places in NI. At this point it is not possible to determine the relative impact of each of these factors on out-migration and in-migration to Northern Ireland.

My Department is researching inter-regional flows of HE students, including the extent to which those students that leave NI do so to secure a place at the institution of their choice.

Sinn Fein

12. **Mr. Robathan**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment the Government have made of the fitness of Sinn Fein *(a)* to hold office in the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* to enjoy the benefits of House of Commons membership in the light of the Independent Monitoring Commission's findings on Sinn Fein's responsibility for continuing terrorist activity and paramilitary involvement. [180493]

Mr. Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced to the House on 20 April the steps he proposed to take in the light of the IMC's first report. The Commission made no recommendation on the points mentioned. But we are clear that devolved government in Northern Ireland can operate in future only if it is free from association with paramilitary activity.

Civil Servants (Industrial Action)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has made to *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* the Governments of other member states for special consideration to be given to hauliers and other business drivers from Northern Ireland who have been unable (i) to obtain an MOT certificate and (ii) to tax their vehicles as a result of the current industrial action of civil servants. [180800]

Angela Smith: The certificates of temporary exemption that are now being issued for goods vehicles exempt owners and operators from the requirement to have their vehicles tested for a three-month period from the date of issue. The certificates do not alter their responsibility to maintain their vehicles in a roadworthy condition. The Department for Transport, which has overall responsibility for vehicle licensing in the UK, has written to the European Commission to make them aware of the current difficulties in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the current backlog of cases awaiting a hearing or determination of *(a)* an industrial and *(b)* an employment tribunal in Northern Ireland is. [180813]

Mr. Gardiner: The latest figures available are for 31 March 2004 and at that time there were 1,124 complaints awaiting the attention of the Fair Employment Tribunal and 16,170 complaints awaiting determination by the Industrial Tribunals.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of each category of driving test has been cancelled in Northern Ireland because of industrial action by the Civil Service. [180939]

Angela Smith: At 24 June 2004 the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency had cancelled 5,791 practical driving tests since continuous industrial action started on 17 May. The table provides a breakdown by driving test category.

Driving test category	*Number of cancellations*
Car plus light goods vehicle	5,186
Motorcycle	195
Large goods vehicle	343
Passenger-carrying vehicle/omnibus	62
Car plus trailer	5
Total	5,791

Civil Service Recruitment

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many posts have been advertised by the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in each of the last five years; how many of the reserved posts which fall within the remit of *(a)* the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners and *(b)* the Great Britain Civil Service Commissioners, broken down by grade. [180166]

Mr. Pearson: Details of posts advertised in each of the last five years, broken down by grade and categorisation are in the table. All the posts fall within the remit of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners and, with the exception of one post*, all were categorised as reserved.

	Posts advertised	*Appointments*
1999	SCS	1
2000	SCS	1
2001	SCS	1
	SCS	2
	Grade A	6
	Grade BI	8
2002	Grade A	1
	Grade A*	1
	Grade BI	0
	Grade A	8
	Grade BI	12
2003	Grade BI	9
2004	SCS	1
	Grade BI	Competition on-going
	Grade A	Competition on-going
	Grade A	Competition on-going
	Grade B	Competition on-going
	Grade BI	Competition on-going

Clinical Networks

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with clinical networks as set out in the Department of Health document "Developing Better Services" of June 2002. [180992]

Angela Smith: A number of networks are already in operation or are planned for the near future. At a regional level, networks are in place for the provision of cancer services, and trauma and orthopaedic services. At a local level, networking arrangements are in place for a wide range of services including: emergency and ophthalmology services between Altnagelvin, Omagh and Erne hospitals; paediatric services between Antrim and Causeway hospitals, and between Craigavon and Daisy Hill hospitals; surgical services between the Lagan Valley and Downe hospitals and the Belfast City, Royal and Ulster hospitals; and, ophthalmology services between the Royal Victoria and South Tyrone hospitals.

In addition to the above, a large number of other regional and local networks are being progressed as part of the on-going implementation of "Developing Better Services".

Departmental Consultations

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of consultation exercises carried out by Northern Ireland Government Departments was in Northern Ireland during the past year. [176887]

Mr. Spellar: The estimated amount of money spent on consultation exercises carried out by Northern Ireland Government Departments during the last year was £863,224.

Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who is responsible for deciding which posts are reserved in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. [180119]

Mr. Pearson: Decisions on categorisation of posts across the civil service (including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions) are made by the business area concerned in accordance with relevant domestic and EC law. Those posts which constitute "employment in the public service" within the meaning of the EC Treaty are categorised as reserved posts.

Health (Planning Applications)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if the Department of the Environment will ensure that someone with a medical background is involved in determining planning applications concerning health issues; and if he will make a statement. [179881]

Angela Smith: I have been advised that Planning Service officials have finalised their investigations into the use of medical advisors to assess "special circumstances" planning applications and I expect a recommendation on the way forward in the very near future.

Illegal Organisations

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken to date to ensure that *(a)* the Real IRA and *(b)* other illegal organisations spawning from Sinn Fein/IRA in the future will be automatically proscribed. [181286]

Mr. Pearson: The Government have consistently maintained that RIRA and similar organisations are proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. The Court of Appeal has confirmed this in its judgement today.

Land Sales (Department for Social Development)

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sales there have been involving land owned by the Department for Social Development at Craigavon, County Armagh in the last two years; and what criteria were used in each sale. [180923]

Mr. Spellar: During the last two financial years there have been 28 sales involving land owned by the Department for Social Development in the Craigavon area. Details are as follows:

Financial Year 2002–03

16 sites were sold:

seven sites within the development limit for Craigavon were disposed of in accordance with Article 5(1) of the New Town Act;

one freehold interest was purchased by the owner;

one encroachment was regularised;

one abandoned road area was sold to an adjoining owner;

two areas of land outside the development limit were sold to former owners;

one house and land outside the development limit were sold to the former owner;

two areas of land retained for road purposes were released and sold to adjoining owners; and

one area of land without road access was sold to an adjoining owner.

Financial Year 2003–04

12 sites were sold:

three sites within the development limit for Craigavon were disposed of in accordance with Article 5(1) of the New Town Act;

seven small sites retained for a road scheme now completed were sold to adjoining owners;

one encroachment was regularised; and

one area outside the development limit was sold to the former owner.

Maiden City Festival

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated value to the Northern Ireland economy is of the Maiden City Festival; and what level of Government support is provided for it. [178523]

Mr. Gardiner: The Government do not collect this information and are therefore not in a position to assess the benefit of the Maiden City Festival to the Northern Ireland economy. Set out in the following table are details of funding made available by Departments of Northern Ireland Administration during the period 2001–05.

£

Department/Agency	*2001–2002*	*2002–2003*	*2003–2004*	*2004–2005*
Northern Ireland Tourist Board	20,000	25,000	0	Application under consideration.
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	50,000	50,000	50,000	Application under consideration.
Department of Social Development	0	0	[1]20,800	LRI application under Consideration.
Overall total	70,000	75,000	70,800	n/a

[1] Allocated through the Londonderry Regeneration Initiative this funding was offered for the post of a Development Worker and associated advertising and recruitment costs.

In addition, the Ulster Scots Agency has made £120,000 available during the period (£30,000 in 2001–02, £30,000 in 2002–03, £30,000 in 2003–04 and £30,000 in 2004–05) and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland provided £50,000 of National Lottery funding in 2002–03.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the reasons were for the decision to introduce a moratorium on Northern Ireland Housing Executive house sales on 18 May; for what reason this decision was taken prior to conclusion of the Department for Social Development's consultation on proposed changes to the housing order; and if he will make a statement. [180674]

Mr. Spellar: There has been no moratorium on Northern Ireland Housing Executive house sales; applications to purchase are being accepted and applicants are being informed that the terms upon which their application will be assessed may be subject to change pending the outcome of the consultation exercise into the proposed amendments to the scheme. The decision to proceed in this manner was taken in order to avoid an inevitable surge in applications which would have occurred had a prior announcement of the proposals been made.

The proposed changes to the house sales scheme, which may be subject to amendment following the completion of the consultation, are designed to take account of the aspirations of tenants to move to owner occupation without compromising the needs of those who continue to depend on social housing.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Northern Ireland Housing Executive-sector house sales applications were pending before the ministerial moratorium was introduced on 18 May; and how many applications for house sales are being processed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. [180675]

Mr. Spellar: At 18 May, there were 3,609 house sales applications, at various stages of completion, being processed by NIHE. These cases will not be affected by whatever changes are implemented as a result of the consultation into the proposed amendments to the House Sales Scheme.

From 18 May to 24 June, the NIHE received 494 house sales applications. While preparatory work is being undertaken on these applications, offers will not be made until the consultation exercise is completed, the responses considered and the sales scheme finalised.

Peace Process

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the peace process. [180485]

Mr. Paul Murphy: As the Prime Minister said on Friday, it is time to end the negotiations with a conclusive agreement or find another way forward. The Prime Minister made clear that there will be intensive talks in early September. Our position is clear: we need to see an end now to all forms of paramilitary activity, and it is imperative that we restore as soon as possible a stable and inclusive partnership Government in Northern Ireland.

Tyrone County Hospital/Erne Hospital

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources will be made available to maintain and develop services at *(a)* the Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh and *(b)* the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen; and what plans are in place for (i) service improvements in staffing and (ii) other investment for both sites over the next three years. [180299]

Angela Smith: I am fully committed to the timely and effective implementation of the new configuration of services set out in "Developing Better Services" (DBS). Until these changes can be effected, I will do everything I can to sustain services on existing sites.

Both Sperrin Lakeland Trust and the Western Health and Social Services Board are committed to this policy and with the Department's support are engaged in an extensive on-going programme of investment in staffing and infrastructure aimed at sustaining key services at Tyrone County and Erne Hospitals in the interim period. This programme of investment will continue over the next three years and beyond.

HEALTH

Amyl Nitrate

Mr. Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what health advice is given to young people about the use and side effects of inhaling poppers containing amyl nitrate, with particular reference to the products *(a)* Liquid Gold, *(b)* Pure Gold and *(c)* TNT. [178803]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has published two guidance leaflets specifically aimed at young people, which give advice about the use and side effects of a number of drugs, including poppers containing amyl nitrite.

The FRANK website, www.talktofrank.com, aims to inform young people and their parents, carers and families about the effects and risks of taking illicit drugs, including poppers containing amyl nitrite.

Barbeque Food

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 19 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1005W, on barbeque food, if he will set out the reasons for the comment made in the comment column for 2001. [179674]

Miss Melanie Johnson: For completeness the previous answer provided information on outbreaks reported as being associated with barbecues or with barbecued food. The "salmonella" enteritidis outbreak in 2001 was associated with tiramisu served as a dessert at a private barbecue.

Beauty Parlour Stroke Syndrome

Mrs. Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of beauty parlour stroke syndrome have been recorded over the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [180639]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available centrally.

Blind and Deaf People

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are registered as *(a)* blind and *(b)* deaf in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the north-west. [180431]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Information is collected not on a constituency level, but on a local authority basis. The table shows the number of people who are registered blind at 31 March 2003 and those registered as deaf at 31 March 2001 in Lancashire and the north-west.

Rounded numbers

	Number of people registered as:	
	Blind (March 2003)	*Deaf (March 2001)*
Lancashire[1]	3,920	915
North-west	24,215	n/a

n/a = data are not available for all councils within the north-west region.

[1] Data refer to Lancashire council with social services responsibilities.

Source:
SSDA902 and SSDA910.

Dentistry

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Gloucestershire are waiting to be registered with a NHS dentist. [180659]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that the demand for NHS dentistry in Gloucestershire is met. [180660]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have provided new investment totalling £90 million to national health service dentistry over the last year. £59 million will support access and strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been advised of their shares and are working with their primary care trusts (PCTs), including those in Gloucestershire, to address access issues. £30 million is to support information technology and the balance of £1 million will support organisational development locally.

In Gloucestershire, the existing dental access centres offer emergency and routine dental treatment—this is prioritised according to patients' needs and the demands placed on the service.

All the PCTs in Gloucestershire have been invited by Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA to submit proposals to improve access to dental care, funded through the SHA's £2 million share of the access funding. They are also exploring the possibility of establishing an outreach-teaching pilot for dental and dental therapy students with Bristol University.

West Gloucestershire PCT is one of the 16 PCTs in England with which the shadow NHS dentistry support team is working. The support team has made several visits to Gloucestershire towards the end of 2003, and an action plan to establish new dental practices in Cinderford, in the Forest of Dean and Gloucester City will be agreed by the end of April 2004. Additionally, work is under way to explore the potential for overseas recruitment in Gloucestershire.

Cheltenham and Tewkesbury and Cotswold and Vale PCTs are taking similar action and are inviting all dental practices to participate and submit proposals for use of the extra resources available from 2004–05.

Departmental Administrative Budget

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total administrative budget of the Department was in each year since 1997. [180320]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Detailed information on administration costs for the Department back to 1998–99 and with projections to 2005–06, is set out in Figure 8.1 of the 2004 Departmental Report (CM 6204). Copies are available in the Library. Data for years before 1998–99 are not available on the same basis.

Departmental Policies (Hull)

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what impact his Department's policies have had on the Hull North constituency since 1997. [174794]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 24 May 2004]:* The Government has put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Hull North constituency.

For example:

At the end of March 2004, the number of people waiting more than nine months for inpatient treatment within West Hull Primary Care Trust (PCT) has fallen to 0, from 376 in June 2002.

At the end of March 2004 the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for outpatient treatment within West Hull PCT has fallen to 390, from 818 in June 2002.

In September 2002, at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, 63.7 per cent., of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. Figures for December 2003 show an improvement to 92.4 per cent..

Between September 2002 and September 2003, the number of consultants at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust has increased from 208 to 234. The number of nurses increased from 2,292 to 2,399.

Figures for December 2003 show that all patients within West Hull PCT are able to be offered an appointment with a primary care professional within two working days.

In the Kingston upon Hull local authority area, death rates from cancer per 100,000 population have risen to 227.2 in 2002, from 223.8 in 1997.

In the Kingston upon Hull local authority area, death rates from coronary heart disease per 100,000 population have fallen to 156.9 in 2002, from 181.5 in 1997.

West Hull PCT's allocation has risen to £163.4 million for 2004–05, a cash increase of 6.4 per cent..

In March 2003, a new women's and children's hospital was opened at the Hull Royal Infirmary, which brings together all maternity, gynaecology and children's outpatients services on the same site.

A £6 million eye hospital opened in November 2002, with 12 new beds and three theatres, enabling 1,000 additional eye operations to be carried out per year.

A £60 million private finance initiative oncology centre development at Castle Hill is due to open in 2006.

A £29 million new cardiac centre was announced by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health, on a visit to Hull Royal Infirmary on 13 January 2004. The new unit will be at Castle Hill Hospital and will employ an additional 150 staff.

An additional computed tomograhpy scanner is due to be delivered by December 2004.

An additional magnetic resonance imaging scanner was delivered to Hull Royal Infirmary in March 2001. Another additional scanner is due to be delivered to the trust by December 2004.

A replacement linear accelerator was delivered to Princess Royal Hospital in January 2001.

Source:

Department of Health.

Office of National Statistics.

Departmental Refurbishment Costs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been incurred in the last 12 months by the Department in refurbishment of its buildings. [180322]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the last complete financial year (2003–04), the Department has spent £2,840,000 on refurbishing its core headquarters buildings in London and Leeds.

Emergency Planning

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 24 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1378W, on emergency planning, how many times the long-standing arrangements between the NHS and the armed forces have been tested; what form these tests took; and when they last occurred. [179471]

Mr. Hutton: The call out and co-ordination aspects of these arrangements are tested whenever military assistance is requested by the ambulance service or hospitals. For example, military search and rescue helicopters routinely deliver patients to national health service hospitals and ambulances and are often involved

in urgent patient transfers. No specific exercises are conducted; the military response depends on the assets operationally available at the time.

The guidance issued to the NHS explains that the two areas where the NHS and the military need to collaborate are:

When the NHS needs to receive and treat military casualties from overseas:

There is a joint Ministry of Defence/Department of Health plan, "Reception Arrangements for Military Patients" (RAMP), in place for the handling of armed forces casualties returning to the United Kingdom from overseas. This plan is tested routinely, whenever military casualties are aeromedically evacuated from military operations or training exercises overseas back to the UK.

When the armed forces can offer help and support to the NHS following a major incident or massive disaster:

All NHS organisations are required to include arrangements in their major incident plans for accessing military resources. During an emergency, civil authorities, including the NHS, can call on the armed forces for help in dealing with the crisis under the military aid to the civil authorities scheme.

EU Health Insurance Card

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* other Government Departments, *(b)* EU representatives and *(c)* interested organisations on the introduction of the EU health insurance card in the UK; [178217]

(2) how he plans to meet the EU requirement for British residents to have an EU health insurance card by December 2005; [178218]

(3) what data must be recorded on the EU health insurance card to meet EU requirements; [178219]

(4) what plans he has to introduce the EU health insurance card in the UK; and what format this card will take. [178220]

Mr. Hutton: There has been detailed discussion with other member states and the European Commission (EC) prior to the EC's proposals. We have also had consultations with the devolved Administrations and a range of other Government Departments.

We will set out our proposals for introduction of the card in a consultation paper to be issued shortly. The card will be introduced before the end of 2005.

The data that will appear on the face of all health cards will be:

First name.

Surname.

Date of birth.

Personal identification number.

Country code.

Identification number of the institution responsible for reimbursement of health care.

Identification number of the card.

There will be no electronic data on the United Kingdom card and no clinical information relating to patients. The EC has proposed that a future phase will be to make the European health insurance card a smart card, that is, one with the inclusion of electronic information. The EC is developing its proposals, which will need to be discussed with member states.

Health Care Professionals (Vacancies)

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies there are in the NHS for *(a)* community-based and *(b)* palliative care health care professionals. [177877]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 10 June 2004]:* Table 1 shows the three-month vacancy rates and numbers for specified areas of work for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff. Community midwifery figures are not collected separately. Therefore, the data refer to hospital and community based midwives.

The Department does not separately identify data on community-based doctors. Table 2 shows the three-month vacancy rates and numbers for consultants in palliative care medicine as at 31 March 2003.

Table 1

Department of Health vacancies survey, March 2003 Three-month vacancies in the specified areas of work for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff Three-month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	England
Community learning disabilities	
March 2003	
Three-month vacancy rate (%)	2.6
Three-month vacancy number	92
September 2002	
Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)	3,579
Staff in post (headcount)	4,053
Community psychiatry	
March 2003	
Three-month vacancy rate (%)	2.7
Three-month vacancy number	305
September 2002	
Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)	11,282
Staff in post (headcount)	12,292
Midwives	
March 2003	
Three-month vacancy rate (%)	3.1
Three-month vacancy number	572
September 2002	
Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)	18,119
Staff in post (headcount)	23,249
District nurses	
March 2003	
Three-month vacancy rate (%)	1.8
Three-month vacancy number	201
September 2002	
Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)	10,639
Staff in post (headcount)	13,393
Health visitors	
March 2003	
Three-month vacancy rate (%)	2.3
Three-month vacancy number	229
September 2002	
Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)	9,912
Staff in post (headcount)	12,774

Notes:

1. Three-month vacancy information is as at 31 March 2003
2. Three-month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (whole time equivalents)

3. Three-month vacancy rates are three-month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three-month vacancies plus staff in post

4. Three-month vacancy rates are calculated using staff in post from the vacancy survey, March 2003

5. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place

6. Staff in post data is from the non-medical workforce census, September 2002

Sources:

Department of Health vacancies survey, March 2003

Department of Health non-medical workforce census, September 2002

Table 2

	Palliative care consultants
Three-month vacancy rate (%)	12.7
Three-month vacancy number	17
Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)	114
Staff in post (headcount)	148

Health Services (Rochdale)

Mrs. Fitzsimons: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the levels of elective admissions to the NHS in Rochdale in 2003–04. [178437]

Miss Melanie Johnson: During 2003–04, the number of elective admissions for patients in the Rochdale Primary Care Trust area was 16,583 (11,132 daycases and 5,451 ordinary admissions).

Mrs. Fitzsimons: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of suspected cancer patients in Rochdale saw an NHS consultant within two weeks in each of the last seven years; and what percentage were *(a)* women and *(b)* from an ethnic minority. [178515]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on the number and percentage of suspected cancer patients, seen by a consultant within two weeks of urgent referral for each quarter since quarter 2000–01 is shown in the table. Earlier figures are not available.

Total number of patients seen within two weeks for suspected cancer in Rochdale

Year/Qtr	*Name*	*Total number of people seen within two weeks*	*Total number of people seen*	*Percentage of people seen in two weeks of referral*
2000–01				
4	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	19	20	95.05
4	Oldham NHS Trust	167	179	93.30
4	Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	200	202	99
4	North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	200	213	93.9
4	Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	374	385	97.1
2001–02				
1	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	5	6	83.3
1	Oldham NHS Trust	181	191	94.8
1	Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	224	229	97.8
1	North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	242	255	94.9
1	Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	345	359	96.1
2	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	8	8	100
2	Oldham NHS Trust	162	168	96.4
2	Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	227	244	93
2	North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	298	329	90.6
2	Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	385	389	99
3	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	3	3	100
3	Oldham NHS Trust	181	183	98.9
3	Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	235	236	99.6
3	North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	286	302	94.7
3	Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	398	400	99.5
4	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	3	3	100
4	Oldham NHS Trust	197	200	95.5
4	Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust	209	210	99.5
4	North Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	302	303	99.7
4	Bury Healthcare NHS Trust	450	450	100
2002–03				
1	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	5	6	83.3
1	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,215	1,230	98.8
2	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	2	2	100
2	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,240	1,251	99.1
3	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	6	7	85.7
3	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,325	1,347	98.4
4	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	4	5	80
4	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,190	1,242	95.8
2003–04				
1	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	3	4	75
1	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,214	1,316	92.2
2	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	5	5	100
2	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,174	1,237	94.9
3	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	3	3	100
3	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,276	1,308	97.6
4	Christie Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	—
4	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1,186	1,218	97.4

Source: Department of Health from QMCW

Hospital Building

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many new *(a)* general and *(b)* community hospitals have been opened in England in the last five years; [170181]

(2) how many new *(a)* general and *(b)* community hospital building projects are part of a private finance initiative procurement process in England; [170402]

(3) how many *(a)* general and *(b)* community hospitals are under construction in England. [170180]

Mr. Hutton: There is no central agreed definition of what constitutes a general or community hospital but for practical purposes schemes can be placed in one of three categories—general and acute, community, and mental health.

Currently there are 117 hospital schemes counting towards the NHS Plan target of 100 new hospital schemes by 2010. 107 will be built under the Private Finance Initiative. Of the 107, 38 are now operational of which 24 are general and acute, four community and 10 mental health. A further 22 are under construction of which 16 are general and acute, one community and five mental health. Of the 10 publicly procured schemes, six are now operational of which four are general and acute, one community and one mental health. Four are under construction of which three are general and acute and one community.

Inequalities in Health

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the total number of recommendations contained in the Acheson Report on inequalities in health have been acted upon; in what way the recommendations have been acted upon; and if he will make a statement. [179873]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Acheson Report has been influential in developing current policy on health inequalities through its evidence base and the encouragement it has given to action on a broad front across Government. The Government's latest statement on health inequalities is "Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action" (2003). It sets out details of progress to date and future work across Government in laying the foundations to meet the 2010 public service agreement target on reducing health inequalities in life expectancy and infant mortality. A progress report on health inequalities is planned for later this year.

An early interim assessment, "Reducing Health Inequalities: An Action Report", against the 39 main recommendations was published in 1999 alongside the "Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation" White Paper. This report and the programme for action are both available in the Library.

Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sub-groups of the Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation are established; who their members are; what their respective programmes of work are; and whether they are expected to publish their conclusions. [178896]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Subgroups of the joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JCVI) are convened when required to investigate a particular issue on behalf of the committee. They enable additional specialist expertise to contribute to the issue. The work of a sub-group is defined by the main JCVI Committee. Subgroups report back to JCVI, and their work is covered in the JCVI minutes which are available on the Department's website at www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jvci.

Mental Health

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England are receiving treatment for mental illness. [180610]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of unfinished in-patient provider spells in national health service hospitals where the patient was under the care of a mental illness consultant, by age and length of provider spell at 31March 2003 is shown in the table.

Number

England	*Age at 31 March 2003*					
Length of provider spell at 31 March 2002	*All ages*	*0–14*	*15–44*	*45–64*	*65–74*	*75 +*
All durations	29,050	150	12,000	6,650	3,500	6,700
Under 6 months	18,350	100	7,850	4,000	2,200	4,250
6 months—under 1 year	3,250	[1]—	1,400	800	400	650
1 year—under 2 years	2,700	[1]—	1,150	650	350	600
2 years—under 3 years	1,900	[1]—	800	450	200	450
3 years—under 5 years	1,300	[1]—	500	300	150	400
5 years and over	1,500	[1]—	350	550	250	400

[1] Less than 50

Notes:
1. A provider spell is the length of time a patient is under the care of a particular provider.
2. These figures are derived from data obtained directly from trusts.
3. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

MRI Scanning

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to increase capacity for MRI scanning in the health area covering Redbridge and Waltham Forest; and if he will make a statement. [180449]

Miss Melanie Johnson: After decades of underinvestment, there has been an unprecedented level of central capital funding provided to purchase magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners since 2000. These programmes are providing over 160 new MRI scanners from 2000 to 2006, resulting in a 150 per cent.

increase in the number of MRI scanners available to the national health service since 1997. The allocations of new MRI scanners have been agreed in conjunction with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and have been made to ensure equitable access to MRI services across the country.

One of the additional MRI scanners has been allocated to the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust and is due for delivery at the end of 2004. This will increase the capacity for MRI scanning for patients living in the health area covering Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, announced on 8 April 2004 that a new five year deal with the independent sector is planned to allow an extra 80,000 MRI scans per year across the country through the use of mobile units.

Multiple Limb Disability

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many individuals in England have congenital multiple limb disability; [179073]

(2) what plans he has to provide a multidisciplinary centre for congenital multiple limb disability sufferers incorporating orthopaedic and rehabilitation services;. [179074]

(3) what specialist medical facilities exist to support those with congenital multiple limb disability;. [179093]

(4) what the procedures in the NHS are for referring patients with multiple limb disability to the Ex-Centre in Stockholm for assessment;. [179095]

(5) how many UK patients have been referred through the NHS to the Ex-Centre in Stockholm for multiple limb disability. [179096]

Dr. Ladyman: Figures on how many individuals in England have congenital multiple limb disability are not collected centrally, although the Department is aware that there are 455 individuals currently being supported in the United Kingdom by the Thalidomide Trust. Also, the Department recorded 18,910 finished admission episodes in national health service hospitals in England in 2002–03 relating to congenital malformations and deformations of the musculoskeletal system. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs), in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of prosthetic limbs. Prosthetic services are delivered to patients through 33 disablement service centres in England. Patients normally attend their local centre, but can attend another if they wish. If an overseas option is considered, it would be for the local PCT commissioning team to agree that. Figures on how many UK patients have been referred through the NHS to the Ex-Centre in Stockholm for multiple limb disability are not collected centrally. Prosthetic limbs are provided free of charge to single or multiple prosthetic limb users by the NHS. The NHS has available to it, via contracts negotiated by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, virtually everything that is available on the international market. Furthermore, local healthcare professionals have the ability to obtain products from outside of the current national agreement if it is deemed appropriate for the specific needs of particular patients.

Neonatal Intensive Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many neonatal intensive care cots there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each year since 1996. [179153]

Dr. Ladyman: Data for strategic health authorities (SHAs) can only be provided for 2002–03, the year SHAs were introduced. Useful comparative data for England before 2002–03 cannot be provided as improved data collection over the period has excluded special care cots, which were formerly included in the data for neonatal intensive care cots.

Neonatal intensive care cots at 31 March 2003

Organisation identifier	*SHA*	*Neonatal intensive care cots*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	43
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	8
Q03	Essex HA	42
Q04	North West London HA	58
Q05	North Central London HA	57
Q06	North East London HA	28
Q07	South East London HA	84
Q08	South West London HA	20
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	18
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	24
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	22
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	43
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	15
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	64
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	47
Q16	Thames Valley HA	22
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	49
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	19
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	24
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	24
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	17
Q22	Somerset and Dorset HA	28
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	17
Q24	Trent HA	59
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	26
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	16
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	47
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	36
	England	957

Note:
The table shows neonatal intensive cots by strategic health authority for 2002–03, the year in which SHAs were introduced.
Source:
Department of Health KH03 returns.

NHS Dentists

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of when everyone in England will have access to an NHS dentist. [179220]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government recognise that it is difficult in some parts of the country to find a national health service dentist, This is why we are undertaking the most radical overhaul of NHS dentistry since 1948—through legislation in the Health and Social Care Act 2003, transferring responsibility for commissioning NHS dental services to primary care trusts (PCTs). In addition to this, we have targeted £59 million specifically to improve access to NHS dentistry across England: £50 million allocated to PCTs for specific local initiatives and an additional £9 million specifically targeted to the 16 most challenged areas for dental access via the NHS support team. There are now nearly 50 dental access centres operational around the country. They are providing care to a group of patients who may not have previously been able to easily access NHS dentistry.

At present, about 91 per cent. of callers to NHS Direct are being advised of available sources of NHS dentistry within locally agreed standards and about 19,000 people a month are doing so.

NHS Spending Levels

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS spending was *(a)* in real terms and *(b)* at present prices in each region in each of the last 25 years; and what the projected spending levels will be for the next five years. [180023]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NICE Facilitators/Guidance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what target dates he has set for ensuring that all primary care trusts have a National Institute for Clinical Excellence facilitator. [179450]

Mr. Hutton: We have set no target dates as this is a matter for national health service bodies. We have asked strategic health authorities to work with the local NHS to ensure that they have effective arrangements in place for the implementation of National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidance.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the NHS Information Centre to be in a position to provide good quality comparative information on the take-up of National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidance. [179454]

Mr. Hutton: The arrangements for the co-ordination, collection and publication of statistics is being considered as part of the arm's length body (ALB) review. An announcement on the ALB review will be made shortly.

Nursing/Midwifery Training

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nursing and *(b)* midwifery training places there were in each year since 1990; and what the projected number of training places is for each of the next five years. [180022]

Mr. Hutton: Information on the number of nursing and midwifery training places in each year since 1992–93, the first available year, is shown in the table. Information is not available on the number of training places projected for each of the next five years, though we expect further growth as a result of increased investment in nurse training.

Pre-registration nursing and midwifery training commissions

	Total[1]
1992–93	16,338
1993–94	14,197
1994–95	12,480
1995–96	13,381
1996–97	14,984
1997–98	16,539
1998–99	17,689
1999–2000	18,707
2000–01	20,021
2001–02	21,770
2002–03	22,956

[1] Adjusted to take account of Dearing transfer of 1,017 nursing degree places to national health service 1992–03 to 1997–98.

Osteoporosis

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received in the last six months from the National Osteoporosis Society on the review of pharmaceutical treatments for osteoporosis being conducted by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. [179882]

Dr. Ladyman: In the last six months, the Department received 12 letters directly citing the National Osteoporosis Society in connection with the review of pharmaceutical treatments for osteoporosis treatments for osteoporosis.

In addition, there have been 214 letters about the review from hon. and right hon. Members on behalf of constituents and organisations.

Out-of-Hours Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have *(a)* begun to develop plans for out-of-hours services after December and *(b)* finalised plans for out-of-hours services after December; and if he will make a statement. [180273]

Mr. Hutton: Delivery plans for the new primary care contracts and the modernisation of out of hours services require all primary care trusts to have in place plans for the delivery of out of hours services after December.

In some places, these plans are already successfully delivering out of hours care in areas where practices have opted out. We continue to work closely with strategic health authorities to ensure a smooth transition to meet the time scales of the new contracts and to ensure patients continue to receive a quality assured service.

Plastic Surgery

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* hospital admissions and *(b)* finished consultant episodes there were in (i) reconstructive plastic surgery and (ii) elective cosmetic plastic surgery in the NHS in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement; [180278]

(2) what the cost to the NHS was of *(a)* reconstructive plastic surgery and *(b)* elective cosmetic plastic surgery in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement; [180279]

(3) what criteria are used to determine which patients should be referred to receive cosmetic surgery on the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [180280]

Mr. Hutton: Table 1 shows the number of finished hospital admissions and finished consultant episodes for both reconstructive plastic surgery and elective cosmetic surgery carried out in the national health service since 1996.

Table 2 shows NHS expenditure on plastic surgery for the financial years 1995–96 to 2002–03. The Department is unable to distinguish between reconstructive and elective cosmetic surgery.

The Department does not issue criteria to surgeons on the selection of patients for cosmetic surgery. The decision on whether to provide cosmetic surgery on the NHS is made locally by primary care trusts based on other competing priorities.

Table 1. Counts of finished consultant episodes and finished admissions for plastic surgery and cosmetic surgery in NHS hospitals in England 1996–97 to 2002–03

	Reconstructive plastic surgery		*Elective cosmetic surgery*	
	Finished episodes	*Finished admissions*	*Finished episodes*	*Finished admissions*
1996–97	5,239	5,202	2,603	2,598
1997–98	5,346	5,300	2,522	2,515
1998–99	5,836	5,816	2,837	2,835
1999–2000	5,779	5,749	2,285	2,279
2000–01	6,399	6,356	2,462	2,450
2001–02	6,467	6,398	2,427	2,385
2002–03	6,905	6,887	2,701	2,696

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, Department of Health.

Table 2. Hospital and community health services expenditure on plastic surgery—1995–96 to 2002–03—England

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
1995–96	148,163,186
1996–97	160,604,901
1997–98	172,683,817
1998–99	189,208,695
1999–2000	206,682,111
2000–01	226,578,825
2001–02	252,713,681
2002–03	286,147,991

Sources:
Annual financial returns of district and regional health authorities and the special health authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals 1995–96.
Annual financial returns of health authorities 1996–97.
Annual financial returns of NHS trusts 1995–96 to 2002–03.
Annual financial returns of primary care trusts 2000–01 to 2002–03.

Podiatry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what audit has been made of the work of non-medically qualified consultant podiatric surgeons in the NHS. [R] [180672]

Mr. Hutton: No such audit has been undertaken or commissioned centrally.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations have been made to his Department on the work of consultant podiatric surgeons in the NHS. [R] [180673]

Mr. Hutton: There was an exchange of correspondence about this in 2002–03 but nothing later.

Private Health Care (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many private health care patients have been treated at Lancashire teaching hospitals in each of the last five years. [180433]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The table gives information for the Lancashire teaching hospitals national health service trust, which was formed in 2002 and its predecessor bodies.

Finished consultant episodes : Private patients treated in selected NHS trusts in England 1998–99 to 2002–03

	1998–99	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Chorley and South Ribble NHS trust	18	—	15	19	—
Preston acute hospitals NHS trust	1,962	1,625	1,628	226	—
Lancashire teaching hospitals NHS trust	—	—	—	—	122

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider.

Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

1999–2000 figures

A combined return for the two trusts was made in 1999–2000

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Department of Health

Waiting Lists

Mr. Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been in the *(a)* number of people waiting for in-patient treatment and *(b)* time people have been waiting for in-patient treatment in Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority area since 1997. [180267]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Patients waiting for elective in-patient admission: Position at quarter end: Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority (commissioner based)

Quarter ending	Total number of patients waiting for admission	Patients waiting for admission by months waiting: Less than 3 months	3–5 months	6–8 months	9–11 months	12–14 months	15–17 months	18+ months
June 2002	39,985	16,499	11,190	7,354	3,842	1,100	0	0
September 2002	39,2521	16,595	10,730	7,548	3,965	414	0	0
December 2002	38,954	17,026	10,880	7,222	3,516	310	0	0
March 2003	36,882	16,914	10,300	6,757	2,908	3	0	0
June 2003	36,688	16,284	10,838	6,637	2,921	4	1	3
September 2003	36,317	16,309	10,129	7,2101	2,660	1	4	4
December 2003	36,389	17,223	10,434	6,573	2,153	0	0	6
March 2004	33,589	18,377	10,501	4,710	0	1	0	0

Source:
Department of Health form QF01

Mr. Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been in the *(a)* number of people waiting for outpatient appointments and *(b)* time people have been waiting for out-patient appointments in Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority area since 1997. [180268]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Waiting times for first consultant out-patient appointment: Kent and Medway SHA (provider based)

Quarter	Number of referral requests for first out-patient appointments: GP written	Other
2002–03		
Q1	69,669	26,213
Q2	71,334	28,075
Q3	67,672	26,674
Q4	70,008	28,459
2003–04		
Q1	72,097	29,541
Q2	73,416	30,112
Q3	70,696	24,226
Q4	75,531	37,110

GP written referrals only

Quarter	Effective length of wait from receipt of GP written referral request to first out-patient attendance (weeks): 0 to <4	4 to < 13	13 to <17	17 to <21	21 to <26	26 and over
2002–03						
Q1	17,393	24,055	5,266	3,268	3,524	131
Q2	18,368	23,169	5,890	4,687	3,723	35
Q3	18,286	22,073	6,945	6,385	1,697	119
Q4	20,481	23,603	8,041	6,482	1,452	520
2003–04						
Q1	19,943	24,136	6,639	5,961	310	24
Q2	20,141	23,668	7,464	7,125	89	11
Q3	18,362	23,053	8,138	7,437	214	15
Q4	18,297	23,731	11,119	3,940	111	2

GP written referrals only

Not yet seen at end of quarter who have been waiting (weeks)

Quarter	*13 to < 17*	*17 to < 21*	*21 to < 26*	*26 and over*
2002–03				
Q1	4,617	2,547	858	0
Q2	4,718	2,426	588	1
Q3	4,562	1,652	577	88
Q4	3,049	1,268	18	2
2003–04				
Q1	4,680	1,439	10	3
Q2	5,714	2,129	4	6
Q3	5,220	1,146	1	2
Q4	1,995	0	0	0

Source:
DH form QM08

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time to see a general practitioner in Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust was in the last period for which figures are available. [180435]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Information on the time patients wait to see a general practitioner is not collected centrally. However, information on the lead time for the first available appointment with each GP practice is collected. This shows that, at April 2004, all patients covered by the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust were able to be offered an appointment to see a general practitioner within two working days.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Atomic Energy

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of talks with the United States on the 1958 agreement on co-operation on the uses of atomic energy for mutual defence purposes. [178196]

Mr. MacShane: Discussions have been held with the US on the renewal of the 1958 Agreement on Co-operation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes and the necessary amendments to the Agreement were signed on 14 June by empowered US and UK representatives.

On 21 June these amendments were laid before Parliament with an Explanatory Memorandum in accordance with the normal procedure for amendments to such treaties. Copies of the Command Paper [Cm 6261] and Explanatory Memorandum were also sent to the House of Commons Defence Committee and were published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website: www.fco.gov.uk.

Botswana

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Botswana regarding the rights and freedoms of the *(a)* Gana and *(b)* Gwi bushmen. [179506]

Mr. MacShane *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with the Government of Botswana about the Basarwa.

However, I raised the subject of the Basarwa with President Mogae at CHOGM in December 2003. The British High Commission in Gaborone also discuss the issue regularly in their contacts with the Government of Botswana.

Cocaine

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what strategy the Government will use to eliminate the import of illegal cocaine in the UK. [180565]

Mr. Rammell: The Government work very closely with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to tackle the illegal importation of cocaine to the UK.

We collaborate with their law enforcement agencies to disrupt the supply of cocaine. We have over 20 law enforcement officers stationed in the region. Last year 91 tonnes of cocaine were seized as a result of operations in which we were involved, of which we believe 19 tonnes were destined for the UK; and a number of leading cocaine traffickers were arrested with UK assistance, notably in Colombia and Jamaica.

We also provide considerable help to governments in the region in building up their own counter-narcotics capacity. In the last two years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Drugs and Crime Fund (DCF) has provided £7.8 million of law enforcement training and drug detection equipment.

The Government's counter-narcotics activity overseas comes under the umbrella of our wider Concerted Inter-Agency Drugs Action (CIDA) strategy for combating illegal drugs.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* scale and *(b)* value of natural resource smuggling from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to neighbouring countries; and if he will make a statement. [180504]

Mr. Mullin: We remain deeply concerned that the profits from the vast natural wealth of the Democratic Republic of Congo should go to supporting its people. We have funded an independent NGO. Global Witness, to research an independent preliminary report on natural resource exploitation, which was published on 29 June. We are also funding further research into this sector.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has identified the principal beneficiaries of the illegal trade in natural resources from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [180505]

Mr. Mullin: The UN Panel of Experts on Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources identified a number of beneficiaries in its final report published on

28 October 2003. I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 17 December 2003, *Official Report*, columns 140–42WS, on this subject.

For a very long time the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo have not been the beneficiaries of the natural resources of their country. We are working with the new Government and international and regional partners to help develop effective management of the country's natural resources. We have supported schemes such as the Kimberly Process and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative to help ensure that this takes place.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the safety of humanitarian workers in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [180506]

Mr. Mullin: We advise against all travel to eastern and north-eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which remain insecure and dangerous. We remain deeply concerned by the situation in the DRC and will continue to work with international partners, including humanitarian agencies, to support the Transitional National Government and the Congolese peace process.

Eritrea

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Eritrea on the group of evangelical Christians imprisoned for their faith. [180910]

Mr. Mullin: We often raise the issue of religious freedom with the Eritrean Government. I raised the matter with President Isaias in Asmara on 15 January. Our Charge d'Affaires in Asmara did so most recently on 18 May. The British Ambassador regularly raises cases of detention.

EU-Japan Discussions

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters in respect of *(a)* civil nuclear co-operation and *(b)* commercial nuclear trading were discussed in the EU-Japan bilateral meeting on 22 June. [180609]

Mr. Rammell: Civil nuclear co-operation and commercial nuclear trading were not discussed at the EU-Japan Summit, although they are referred to in the Summit Statement which can be found at http://jpn.cec.eu.int/english/press-info/4-l-l-190.htm.

European Council Chairman

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria were used to decide to support a full-time chairman for the European Council to replace the present six-monthly rotating presidency. [180567]

Mr. MacShane: The Constitutional Treaty reforms the system of the six-monthly rotating Presidency by accepting the UK proposal to introduce a full time Chair or President of the European Council to provide greater continuity and coherence in a Union of 25 Member States. The President, who can serve for up to five years, will ensure that the agenda decided upon by Member States is delivered. The new position will strengthen the role of national governments in the EU. The President will be chosen by national governments and will be accountable to them.

India

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of his recent meeting with the new Foreign Minister for India. [180566]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1529–30W.

Reverend Damanik (Indonesia)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1332W, on Reverend Damanik (Indonesia), under what circumstances an individual is considered by his Department to be a prisoner of conscience. [181076]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government do not themselves classify prisoners according to the reasons for their detention, nor do they formally adopt any position on the classifications made by others. The cases of persons designated "prisoners of conscience" by Amnesty International are frequently taken up by our embassies and high commissions overseas.

Sudan

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the International Crisis Group about the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [181338]

Mr. Mullin: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the President of the International Crisis Group, Mr. Gareth Evans, to discuss Darfur on 23 June.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the Government of Sudan to commute the death sentences on *(a)* Musa Issa Dikho, *(b)* Adam Hariu Issa and *(c)* Ahmed Mohamed Abdel Gadir of Nayala, Sudan. [180726]

Mr. Mullin: Yes. We have already raised these cases with the Government of Sudan and will continue to press for a positive reply.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to discuss with the Sudanese authorities *(a)* abolition of the death penalty, *(b)* respect for fair trials and *(c)* guaranteed respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. [180727]

Mr. Mullin: The promotion of human rights in Sudan, through advocacy with the Government and support for NGOs, remains one of our priorities. We raise our concerns, including on the issues raised, with the Sudanese Government on a regular basis, both bilaterally and as part of the EU-Sudan dialogue.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with the Sudanese Government the role of the National Security Agency in Al Fashir, Sudan on the recent arrests they have undertaken there. [180728]

Mr. Mullin: We are in regular contact with the Government of Sudan on human rights issues and the situation in Darfur in particular. The British Embassy has raised the recent arrests in relation to the conflict in Darfur with both the National Advisory Council for Human Rights and the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the encroachment of Janjaweed militias into Chad. [180729]

Mr. Mullin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) today (UIN 181087).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the withdrawal of the Government of Chad from the role of mediator in the Darfur crisis. [180732]

Mr. Mullin: We understand that the Chadian Government has threatened to reconsider its position as mediator in the Darfur conflict due to concern over the commitment of the Government of Sudan to prevent cross border incursions. However, we are not aware of any formal announcement by the Chadian Government of its intention to withdraw. We are calling on the parties to engage in political discussions to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to propose to the United Nations Security Council that members of the Government of Sudan should be subjected to targeted sanctions. [180834]

Mr. Mullin: At present our priority is to work with all those involved to address the security and humanitarian situation on the ground, and to get the parties to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to propose to the United Nations Security Council the appointment of an investigator into alleged war crimes and atrocities in Darfur, Western Sudan. [180835]

Mr. Mullin: We support the UN's "90-day action plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Darfur" which provides for the deployment of eight human rights monitors to Darfur. We are providing financial support to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for this purpose.

We also support the proposed appointment of an independent expert to provide formal international scrutiny of human rights in Sudan. We look forward to the appointment of this independent expert soon.

The UN Security Council took note, in its Presidential statement of 25 May, of the OHCHR's recommendation for the establishment of an International Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human rights abuses in Darfur. The Security Council may wish to revisit this proposal in light of developments in Darfur, including the work of the National Commission of Inquiry set up by President Bashir.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the statement released by Human Rights Watch on 22 June alleging cross-border attacks by the Janjaweed on local villagers and refugees in Chad; and if he will make a statement; [181086]

(2) what discussions he has had with representatives of the Government of Chad on cross-border attacks from Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [181087]

Mr. Mullin: We are concerned by reports of incursions by the Janjaweed militias into Chad. We welcome President Bashir's announcement of 18 June of his intention to disarm all outlaws, Janjaweed and armed militias in Darfur. We have consistently urged the Sudanese Government to act quickly to rein in the Janjaweed and are encouraging them to translate this statement into action.

Through our embassy in Khartoum we have discussed the situation in Darfur with the Government of Chad. Our priority is to stop the fighting, so we are supporting the deployment of the AU-led ceasefire monitoring mechanism.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the US Administration, *(b)* EU member states and *(c)* EU officials on the imposition of sanctions on Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [181088]

Mr. Mullin: None. Our priority is to work with all those involved to address the security and humanitarian situation on the ground, and to get the parties to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether satellite imagery is being used to track and monitor militias within Sudan. [181332]

Mr. Mullin: We understand that the US Agency for International Development is using satellite imagery to monitor the situation in Darfur. Satellite pictures of the area are available on their website (www.usaid.gov).

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in disbanding and disarming the Janjaweed. [181333]

Mr. Mullin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 29 June 2004 (UIN 180730).

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had within the United Nations about targeting companies associated with the Government of Sudan by means of travel restrictions and asset freezes. [181339]

Mr. Mullin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) today (UIN 181088).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with the Government of Sudan on the subject of land reform, with specific reference to the proposals being advanced by the SLMIA in Darfur. [181378]

Mr. Mullin: We are not aware of any Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) proposals on land reform. The Chairman of the SLM/A, Mr. Abdel Wahid el Nur, did not raise land reform when he met the UK Special Representative for Sudan on 24 June.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to encourage *(a)* the UN, *(b)* the African Union and *(c)* the international community to seek to bring to justice those responsible for recent atrocities in Darfur. [181379]

Mr. Mullin: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) today (UIN 180835). We and our EU partners have made clear that reported attacks against civilians should be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

DEFENCE

Arctic Convoys (Survivors)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen who served on the Arctic convoys are still alive. [178434]

Mr. Caplin: There is no way of telling how many armed forces personnel who served on the convoys to Russia during the Second World War are still alive.

Army (Terms of Service)

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers who are on the S type contract have submitted a redress of complaint about their terms of service; and if he will make a statement. [179709]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Databases

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the fields of the *(a)* MOD Directorate of Commercial Policy Contracts database and *(b)* MOD Central Ledger database. [176386]

Mr. Ingram: The following information assumes that the first database referred to is that maintained by the Defence Bills Agency on behalf of the Commercial Services Group in the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA). The fields in the database are as follows:

1. Contract Number, Contract Date, Contract End Date, Integrated Project and Commercial Officer titles;
2. Contractor's Name and Registration details;
3. Contract Financial details;
4. Security Classification of contract;
5. Type of Work;
6. Standard Industry Classification Code;
7. Particular type of contract;
8. Location of work;
9. Sub-contract work;
10. Overseas sub-contract work;
11. End customer;
12. Contract conditions;
13. Loan items;
14. Competitive or Non-competitive;
15. Status of pricing;
16. Non-competitive pricing;
17. Recoverable (costs recoverable from a third party);
18. Commercial Exploitation Agreement;
19. Imports;
20. Special Contracts Arrangement;
21. European Commission (EC) Requirements;
22. Construction Industry Tax Scheme.

The following information assumes that the database referred to is the DPA General (Financial) ledger. The fields being utilised in the ledger are as follows:

1. BLB (Bottom Level Budget)
2. DESTUIN (Destination Unique Identification Number)
3. Local Centre
4. Local Output
5. Local Project
6. MG (Management Grouping)
7. Output
8. RAC (Resource Account Code)
9. UIN (Unique Identification Number)

Defence Attachés

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the proportion of defence attachés' time spent *(a)* promoting and *(b)* monitoring the end-use of UK arms exports in each of the last three years. [180150]

Mr. Ingram: Defence attachés devote about 10 per cent. of their time annually to supporting legitimate defence exports and defence procurement collaboration activities in accordance with current Government policy on arms exports. We do not record the proportion of time spent specifically on monitoring the end-use of United Kingdom arms exports.

Defence Export and Market Access Forum

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 10 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 598–99W, what the membership is of the Defence Export and Market Access Forum; and what the criteria are for membership of that body. [179257]

Mr. Ingram: Membership of the Defence Export and Market Access Forum comprises senior officials from Government Departments including the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department of Trade and Industry and Cabinet Office together with senior representatives from the United Kingdom Trade Associations and the UK defence industry. The membership reflects consultation between Government and industry to identify those best placed to contribute to the aims of the forum.

Eurofighter Typhoons

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the delay in going ahead with the second tranche of Eurofighter Typhoons; and if he will make a statement. [177140]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 12 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 1634W, and my answer of 10 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 464W, to the hon. Member for Totnes (Mr. Steen). The negotiations are still on-going and must be concluded before Tranche 2 can be ordered.

Export Support Teams

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the Export Support teams was in each of the last three years; and what the forecast cost is for each of the next two years. [176440]

Mr. Ingram: The operating costs of the Export Support Teams recorded for the last three years are as follows:

Financial year	*Net operating costs (£ million)*
2001–2002	[1]1.177
2002–2003	1.888
2003–2004	2.135

[1] Costs for 2001–02 were not recorded on a basis fully comparable with the following years for technical reasons

Provision of £2.105 million has been made for manpower costs in 2004–05. I am withholding projections of costs for financial year 2005–06 under Exemption 2c of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

GEC-BAE Merger

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what advice the department received from the Office of Fair Trading on the GEC-BAE merger in 1999; [174209]

(2) what advice the Secretary of State received from *(a)* his officials and *(b)* other Departments on the Office of Fair Trading report on the GEC-BAE merger;[174210]

(3) whom *(a)* within the Department and *(b)* outside the Department the Secretary of State, his representatives and advisers consulted on the Office of Fair Trading report regarding the merger of BAE-GEC; [174211]

(4) if he will list officials within his Department who were consulted on the Office of Fair Trading report regarding the merger of BAE-GEC in 1999; [174212]

(5) if he will list the meetings that took place between Mr. Ed Miliband and his officials in 1999 to discuss *(a)* the GEC-BAE merger and *(b)* Govan shipyard; [174213]

(6) what briefings the Secretary of State *(a)* gave and *(b)* received in 1999 on the GEC interest in the Govan shipyard; [174214]

(7) on what date the Secretary of State received the minutes of the meeting between Mr. George Simpson of GEC and the Prime Minister to discuss the merger of BAE and GEC in1999; [174215]

(8) if he will list the dates on which he met Mr. George Simpson of GEC in 1999; if he will publish the minutes of the meetings; and if he will list the attendees at those meetings.[R]; [174217]

(9) if he will list the communications between himself, his representatives and advisers and GEC in 1999 over *(a)* the proposed merger of BAE-GEC and *(b)* Govan shipyard.[R]; [174218]

(10) if he will list the communications between himself, his representatives and advisers and Kvaerner, their representatives and advisers over the proposed closure of the Govan shipyard in 1999.[R]; [174219]

(11) if he will list dates of meetings between departmental officials and Mr. Martin Sixsmith of GEC in 1999.[R]; [174220]

(12) if he will list the briefings given by his Department in 1999 on the GEC interest in the Govan shipyard.[R]; [174221]

(13) if he will list the meetings his Department had with the taskforce chaired by Sir Gavin Laird set up by the Government to look for potential buyers for the Govan shipyard in 1999.[R]; [174222]

(14) if he will list the meetings held with Sir Gavin Laird to discuss the future of the Govan shipyard in 1999.[R]; [174223]

(15) if he will list the meetings held with the management of Govan/Kvaerner to discuss the future of the Govan shipyard in 1999.[R]; [174224]

(16) what role he played in the negotiations over the future of Govan shipyard in 1999.[R]; [174225]

(17) what role he played in the informal and oral approaches made to GEC over the purchase of Govan in 1999.[R]; [174226]

(18) what role his Department played in approving the GEC-BAE merger in 1999.[R] [174227]

Mr. Hoon: My officials and I and my predecessors in office have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals. As with previous Administrations it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings under Exemptions 2 and 7 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Information relating to internal discussion and advice is exempt from disclosure under Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The decision on approving the GEC-BAE merger in 1999 was made by the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tyneside, North (Mr. Byers) in the capacity set out in the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria are used to decide whether Royal Navy ships use *(a)* a Spanish port and *(b)* Gibraltar. [181089]

Mr. Ingram: The programming of Royal Navy ships (and Royal Fleet Auxiliary or Ministry of Defence owned/chartered vessels) to Gibraltar or to Spanish ports is dependent on a number of criteria including any specific requirements of the ship, available port facilities, logistical requirements, maintenance requirements or the need of the ship's company to undertake a period of rest and recuperation. The goodwill generated from visiting foreign ports makes a significant contribution to defence diplomacy, the continuing development of bilateral relations and support to UK Industry. A balanced approach is, therefore, taken to ensure that Gibraltar and other ports in the region, including Spanish ports, are visited on a regular basis. In addition, Royal Navy ships en route to or returning from deployments east of Suez and Atlantic Patrol Tasks are routinely programmed to visit Gibraltar.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what action can be taken against Spain over its refusal to allow Royal Air Force aeroplanes to fly to Gibraltar; [181091]

(2) if he will discuss with the new Spanish government the reservation inserted in the NATO Standardisation Agreement 1100 by the previous Spanish Government on naval ships and Gibraltar. [181090]

Mr. Ingram: The Government are committed to developing an effective relationship with the new Spanish Government on all defence matters, including those relating to Gibraltar.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost was of flying around Spain to reach Gibraltar by the Royal Air Force in 2003–04. [181092]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Honours

Brian White: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much time his Department spent dealing with honours in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by Civil Service grade. [173036]

Mr. Caplin: The majority of the work on honours to civilian personnel is undertaken by the Departmental Honours Team. No record is taken of the time each person or group is involved with this work. As no records are held centrally, the information requested is not available on time spent on honours related work, by military or civilian personnel who are not members of the Department's Civilian Honours Team.

Media Coverage (Iraq War)

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on discussions with media organisations on coverage of non-embedded reporting during the Iraq war. [179439]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence's procedures for dealing with non-embedded (or non-accredited) journalists reporting from conflict areas is contained in the Green Book—"Working Arrangements with the Media in times of Emergency, Tension, Conflict or War".

Following our initial assessment of the lessons to be learned from the operation in Iraq, we are reviewing and updating the Green Book. The aim of this review is to ensure that the arrangements set out in the publication remain relevant, both to evolving media practice and the conduct of military operations. As part of this review, Ministry of Defence officials have had discussions with various media organisations, both national and international. We aim to publish the revised Green Book in the summer.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list by vehicle type the number of military vehicles that have *(a)* been written off, *(b)* been withdrawn from use pending repair and *(c)* sustained minor damage in each of the past five years. [179479]

Mr. Caplin: Information on damage to vehicles, other than that caused through involvement in road traffic accidents, is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

The number of military vehicles damaged in five years by whether or not they are beyond road traffic accidents in the last economic repair is as follows:

	1999–2000		*2000–01*		*2001–02*	
Vehicle type	*Beyond economic repair*	*Minor*	*Beyond economic repair*	*Minor*	*Beyond economic repair*	*Minor*
All vehicles	297	9,133	254	8,460	274	8,446
Motorcycle	5	47	9	50	5	29
Car Saloons	171	2,524	134	2,445	146	2,544
Mini Buses	24	995	31	980	30	979
Motor Coaches	1	260	3	235	2	272
Vans	16	753	16	720	21	753
Ambulances	—	66	—	72	1	78
Truck Utility	47	1,998	34	1,751	34	1,600
Truck Utility Heavy Duty	4	48	2	56	1	57
Truck Utility Heavy	—	33	—	33	—	22
4 tonne	12	803	9	639	11	656
8 tonne	6	210	4	144	4	105
14 tonne	1	74	—	53	2	30
Other Cargo Vehicles	1	221	1	258	3	317
Medium Ability Load Carrier	2	269	2	239	3	214
Improved Medium Ability Load Carrier	—	34	—	35	—	29
Fuel Vehicle	—	63	2	52	3	52
Recovery Vehicle	—	42	1	41	—	43
Articulated Vehicle	1	157	—	158	4	185
Tank Transporter	—	35	2	17	—	31
BV206	1	17	—	16	—	7
Fire Fighting Vehicle	—	27	—	37	—	32
Tracked A Vehicle	—	125	1	122	—	102
Wheeled A vehicle	—	49	—	45	—	45
Plant Vehicles	1	122	—	147	2	135
Misc Engr and Trials	1	47	—	23	—	18
Special Vehicle	3	114	3	92	2	111

Vehicle type	2002-03		2003-04	
	Beyond economic repair	Minor	Beyond economic repair	Minor
All vehicles	307	8,759	198	7,981
Motorcycle	4	43	2	15
Car Saloons	187	2,743	104	2,756
Mini Buses	21	965	12	789
Motor Coaches	—	303	—	244
Vans	19	732	23	672
Ambulances	—	75	—	73
Truck Utility	46	1,539	31	1,368
Truck Utility Heavy Duty	1	73	1	32
Truck Utility Heavy	—	27	—	18
4 tonne	12	606	5	545
8 tonne	4	97	1	95
14 tonne	1	43	—	33
Other Cargo Vehicles	3	421	5	505
Medium Ability Load Carrier	2	257	3	148
Improved Medium Ability Load Carrier	—	24	—	21
Fuel Vehicle	1	55	1	54
Recovery Vehicle	—	30	1	30
Articulated Vehicle	2	196	6	142
Tank Transporter	1	18	—	13
BV206	—	6	1	11
Fire Fighting Vehicle	—	114	—	41
Tracked A Vehicle	—	75	—	76
Wheeled A vehicle	—	46	—	59
Plant Vehicles	1	161	2	115
Misc Engr and Trials	1	19	—	22
Special Vehicle	1	91	—	104

Note:
Information for 200304 relates to accidents reported by 1 June 2004.
Source:
Directorate Supply Chain (integration) (Transport).

Radhi Nu'ma

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the death of Radhi Nu'ma in Iraq. [179030]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2004]:* Mr. Radhi Nama (also known as Nu'ma) suffered a heart attack while in detention on 8 May 2003. A Special Investigations Branch investigation concluded that no crime could be established.

RAF Innsworth

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on future plans for RAF Innsworth. [178997]

Mr. Ingram: The use of RAF Innsworth is kept under review, along with all defence estates. However, there are no current plans to cease defence activity on the site.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many claims for payment by BAE Systems under the Al-Yamamah programme relating *(a)* to support, including accommodation and travel, for overseas visitors from Saudi Arabia and *(b)* to support, including visa-related services, for BAE staff travelling to Saudi Arabia have been endorsed since 1 January 1997 by staff of the Saudi Armed Forces Project Office; and what the value of each set of such claims has been in each year since 1 January 1997. [178616]

Mr. Hoon: Since 1 January 1997, 67 BAE Systems' claims have been endorsed by members of the Saudi Armed Forces Project Office (DGSAP) that included accommodation and/or travel costs for Saudi civilian and Service personnel on duty in the United Kingdom. BAE Systems does not submit claims for the costs of staff travel to Saudi Arabia for DGSAP endorsement.

Details of the claims endorsed by DGSAP are confidential between the two Governments, and I am therefore withholding that information under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Scottish Infantry Regiments

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recruitment targets were established for each of the six Scottish infantry regiments for each month since January 2003; what the level of recruitment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180541]

Mr. Caplin: The number of other rank enlistments for each of the six Scottish Infantry Regiments for each month since January 2003 are detailed in the following tables. The marked increase during the months of August-September and December- January are due to the fact that during these months there are additional Junior Entry Courses running, allowing a greater number of recruits to be enlisted. No monthly recruitment targets are set, therefore, the annual Financial Year targets are included in the tables. However, no target was set for individual Infantry Regiments in Financial Year 2002-03.

Table 1: Financial year 2002–03

	Highlanders	*Black Watch*	*Argyll and Southern Highlanders*	*Royal Scots*	*Royal Highland Fusiliers*	*Kings Own Scottish Borderers*
Annual target	None	None	None	None	None	None
January	6	12	5	6	5	5
February	8	7	9	11	12	4
March	4	3	1	2	7	2
Total	18	22	15	19	24	11

Table 2: Financial year 2003–04

	Highlanders	*Black Watch*	*Argyll and Southern Highlanders*	*Royal Scots*	*Royal Highland Fusiliers*	*Kings Own Scottish Borderers*
Annual target	120	112	103	113	113	100
April	9	11	4	4	10	4
May	4	5	3	5	6	3
June	9	4	7	2	12	8
July	3	8	5	1	3	0
August	35	29	19	10	20	34
September	13	10	6	10	8	9
October	2	6	6	4	8	6
November	6	7	5	9	2	4
December	5	8	4	3	2	17
January	17	21	14	8	20	16
February	10	10	5	4	7	7
March	1	3	4	3	9	3
Total	114	122	82	63	107	111

Table 3: Financial year 2004–05

	Highlanders	*Black Watch*	*Argyll and Southern Highlanders*	*Royal Scots*	*Royal Highland Fusiliers*	*Kings Own Scottish Borderers*
Annual target	101	95	92	102	95	94
April	4	7	4	8	5	8
May	2	4	2	4	3	2
Total to date	6	11	6	12	8	10

Officers are not recruited in the same way. Selection by Regiment is made during Initial Training at Sandhurst and comparable information is therefore not available. The numbers commissioned into each of the Scottish Regiments in 2003 and 2004 to date is as follows:

	2003	*2004 (To date)*
Highlanders	4	2
Black Watch	7	1
Argyll and Southern Highlanders	6	1
Royal Scots	7	2
Royal Highland Fusiliers	4	1
Kings Own Scottish Borderers	4	1

Seyntex

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the supply of cloth for tentage awarded to Seyntex in 2001; and what specifications on quality were included in the invitation to tender. [181298]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* Seyntex NV is responsible for the supply of cloth used in the tents supplied to the Department under the terms of a contract placed in 2001. The Invitation to Tender included the detailed specification required for both fabric and manufacture and also specified the Quality Assurance conditions to be applied.

A copy of these will be placed in the Library of the House.

Trident

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 939W on Trident replacement, if he will list the design studies which have been undertaken to date; how much each has cost; what the *(a)* start date and *(b)* expected end date of each study is; and if he will make a statement. [180518]

Mr. Hoon: As stated in my previous answer, decisions on whether to replace Trident are likely to be needed in the next Parliament. We have also made clear that appropriate steps to keep options open will continue to be taken, and that we routinely undertake studies into the optimum operational life of key defence capabilities, including the Trident system. These included concept studies on options for platforms to carry the Trident missile in the longer term, which began in May 2002 and finished in May 2003, and involved extra-mural costs of around £560,000.

UN Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications to exhume the bodies of Iraqis allegedly killed as a result of Coalition action have been made by British military officials; and what has been the result in each case. [158865]

Mr. Ingram: Six requests to exhume the bodies of Iraqis allegedly killed by UK armed forces have been made. In three of these cases the family's permission was withheld.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private companies are involved in the running of United Kingdom prisons in Iraq; and what the role of each is. [174001]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 145-46W, to the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch), the hon. Member for Hampstead and Highgate (Glenda Jackson) and the hon. Member for Portsmouth South (Mr. Hancock).

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when in September 2003 the practice of hooding detainees in Iraq was stopped. [174620]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 May 2004]:* An amended Standard Operating Instruction was issued on 30 September 2003 detailing that the use of hoods on apprehended persons was to cease. This had been preceded by a verbal instruction several days earlier.

WORK AND PENSIONS

New Deal for Lone Parents

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been through the New Deal for Lone Parents more than once *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by parliamentary constituency. [179786]

Jane Kennedy: Through the New Deal we have introduced a wide range of initiatives to help lone parents improve their employment prospects by giving them the skills, support and confidence they need to move into work. Since its introduction in October 1998, over 485,000 lone parents have participated in the New Deal for Lone Parents and over 260,000 lone parents have been helped into work.

The New Deal is a long-term investment to make a real difference to lone parents and their children. New Deal for Lone Parents more than doubles lone parents' chances of moving off income support. Those who do return to benefits after finding a job through New Deal have still added to their skills, confidence and experience, making it easier for them to find a job in the future.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 1 July 2004

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Canoeists (Access)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public funds are available to pay land and river owners to improve access for recreational canoeing; and if she will make a statement on the number of rivers to which canoeists have access. [181369]

Alun Michael: The lengths of water for canoeing on canals, rivers with public navigation rights and rivers with formal access agreement in England total over 5,000 km (34 per cent. of the major river and canal network). According to the feasibility study "Improving Access for Canoeing on Inland Waters: A Study of the Feasibility of Access Agreements", published in May 2004, there are no specific funds for land and river owners to improve access for recreational canoeing but the report highlights a number of potential sources of funding for access agreements.

Egg Stamping

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement about the Government's policy on the stamping of ungraded eggs *(a)* at the farm gate and *(b)* at local public markets. [181284]

Alun Michael: Under the Registration of Laying Flocks Order and the Egg Marketing Regulations, all producers must register in order to obtain an identifying code. Currently small producers with less than 350 birds are exempt from this requirement, provided that the eggs are ungraded and sold direct to the final consumer.

However, because of enforcement difficulties in other member states, it was agreed in November 2003 that part of the derogation from marking for ungraded eggs be removed. From 1 July 2005 farmers selling eggs from their own farms at local public markets will no longer be exempt from the requirement to mark their eggs, irrespective of the number of laying hens kept. Some producers with fewer than 350 laying hens will therefore have to register for the first time, in order to obtain a distinguishing number. This measure had the support of the majority of other member states. Sales in farm shops and door to door do remain exempt.

Firearms Consultation Paper

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2004, to questions 179195, 179196 and 179197, on what date *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials had discussions with Home Office Ministers and officials about the firearms consultation paper; what representations she has received from the rural community on the implications of the Home Office firearms consultation paper; and by what mechanisms she has communicated these views to the Home Office. [181007]

Alun Michael: Defra will contribute to the process of consultation as it affects the Department's responsibilities. I have received representations from the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), from a number of Labour MPs and we have seen a copy of the Countryside Alliance's initial statement. Recently I discussed the consultations with the Minister of State at the Home Office and this week I have a meeting with my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Caroline Flint) on 30 June as part of the on-going discussions between Departments on the issues in the consultation paper.

GM Products

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list GM products which may be imported into the UK; and in which countries each is grown prior to export. [181029]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The crops in the following table were approved for placing on the market under Directive 90/220/EC (Directive 2001/18's predecessor). As far as we are aware the countries listed in the third column of the table have approval to cultivate these crops but we do not know for certain whether crops are grown there for export to the EU. This information has been taken from the AGBIOS database which can be accessed on their website at www.agbios.com/dbase.php.

Crop	*Event/line*	*Countries which have approval to cultivate*
Tobacco	C/F/93/08–02	EU
Soya	GTS40–3-2	Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, USA, Uruguay
Chicory	RM3–3, RM3–4, RM3–6	EU (seed breeding only), USA
Maize	Bt176	Argentina, Canada, EU, Japan, USA
Oilseed rape	MS1, RF1[1]	Australia, Canada, Japan, USA
Oilseed rape	MS1, RF2[1]	Australia, Canada, Japan, USA
Carnation	4, 11, 15, 16	Australia, EU
Oilseed rape	Topaz (HCN92)	Canada, Japan, USA
Maize	T25	Argentina, Canada, EU, Japan, USA
Maize	MON810	Argentina, Canada, EU, Japan, Philippines, South Africa, USA
Maize	Bt11	Argentina, Canada, Japan, USA
Carnation	66	Australia and EU
Carnation	959A, 988A, 1226A, 1351A, 1363A, 1400A	EU

[1] Consent agreed at EU level but not issued by lead Competent Authority

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the GM crops with part C product approval contain antibiotic markers; and what those markers are. [181034]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 28 June 2004]*: The table lists GM crops with part C marketing approval which contain antibiotic resistance markers.

GM crop	*Consent number*	*ARM gene*
MS1, RF1	C/F/95/05/01/A	*nptII*
Herbicide tolerant oilseed rape	C/UK/94/M1/1	
MS1, RF2	C/F/95/05/01/B	*nptII*
Herbicide tolerant oilseed rape		
Herbicide tolerant soya	C/UK/94/M3/1	*nptII*
Topaz 19/2	C/UK/95/M5/1	*nptII*
Herbicide tolerant oilseed rape		
Herbicide tolerant chicory	C/NL/94/25	*nptII*
Bt-176	C/F/94/11-03	*bla*
Herbicide tolerant and insect resistant maize		

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid Budget

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the UK's arrangements for payment of each element of the aid budget channelled through the European Union. [180590]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: UK contributions to the EC Budget are made in accordance with the Own Resources Decision, which sets out the rules for financing the Budget. These contributions are made to the Budget as a whole, including to the EC external aid programme, and not to specific programmes.

The UK's contribution to the European Development Fund, which does not form part of the EC Budget, is paid directly from DFID accounts in three instalments. The overall level of contributions are based on Commission estimates of expenditure and agreed by Council Decision.

Departmental Staff

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total amount paid by his Department to employment agencies for the supply of temporary staff was in financial year 2003–04. [178909]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: This information is not centrally available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

East Timor

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on poverty in East Timor; and what assistance the UK is providing. [180954]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: East Timor is one of the poorest countries in South East Asia, with most people surviving on less than 50 cents a day. Essential services are of poor quality, especially education and health, and access to them is limited. The Government has prepared a National Development Plan, which focuses upon poverty reduction, and the international community is contributing to the Plan's implementation. East Timor should be able to finance development programmes itself once significant revenues from Timor Gap oil and gas start to flow, probably around 2007–8. Until then it must rely heavily on external support.

Since 1999 the UK have committed over £30 million to East Timor. Currently DFID is contributing £12 million (between 2002–5) to a World Bank managed fund for implementing their National Development Plan. A further £1.3 million is being provided over the same period, through OXFAM, to support community education. Britain has also contributed some 19 per cent. of European Commission development expenditure in East Timor. Between 1999 and 2002 (the last year for which figures are available) this is estimated to be approximately £14 million.

Haiti

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will undertake an in-depth review of the development needs of Haiti; and if he will open a bilateral programme in the country at the end of the current Assistance Plan. [180335]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: An urgent assessment of the development needs of Haiti has just been completed and produced an Interim Co-operation Framework. Following initial discussions with donors in Port-au-Prince, the Interim Government of Haiti will formally present this Framework at an International Donors' Conference in Washington DC on 19/20 July 2004. The UK will participate in the Conference with a view to ensuring that the assistance provided by the development community, including the International Financial Institutions, is targeted so as to respond effectively to the development needs of poor Haitians. In these circumstances DFID sees no value in carrying out a separate needs assessment.

There is no current plan for DFID to open a bilateral programme in Haiti. We will, however, continue to provide significant amounts of indirect assistance through our financial contributions to the European Community (where we finance almost 13 per cent. of the European Development Fund), the World Bank and the Inter American Development Bank. We will also maintain our Small Grants Scheme and operate a number of central funds to which civil society organisations active in Haiti are eligible.

Resource Allocation

Mr. Andrew Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether a performance indicator which compares the effectiveness with which the Department operates in different partner countries has been developed since the Strategic Review of Resource Allocation Priorities was published; and if he will make a statement. [180552]

Hilary Benn: Comparative performance is assessed in a number of different ways: under the Public Service Agreement, we assess performance against agreed indicators across a range of focus countries. At the Divisional level there are also indicators for each

country office in terms, for example, of progress they are making in improving joined-up working with other donors; and there are a range of corporate indicators, covering for example compliance with HR procedures and standards, financial procedures and good practice, which are monitored in a similar way across the organisation. These have not yet been brought together into one single balanced assessment of DFID's performance at country level. However we are now bringing together a wider range of performance indicators at a corporate level, and—in the light of experience with this system—will decide whether to apply these to cover Divisional, and, potentially, country levels within DFID.

Sudan

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether non-Sudanese trucks are being used for the distribution of humanitarian aid in Darfur. [181334]

Hilary Benn: The International Committee of the Red Cross uses non-Sudanese trucks for their operations in Darfur. Other agencies are now looking to use non-Sudanese trucks. WFP is importing 25 non-Sudanese trucks, which are due to arrive in mid/late July.

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent information he has received about the length of time taken to receive customs clearance for the distribution of humanitarian aid in Darfur. [181335]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The Sudanese Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs confirmed at the high level Committee on 24 June that all items for Darfur would be cleared by Customs within seven days. On 27 June, the UN reported that some NGOs were facing continuing delays, particularly with regard to clearance of vehicles and radio and communications equipment. We are working with the Government of Sudan to ensure that customs clearance for humanitarian assistance is given as soon as possible and I spoke to the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs about this on 28 June. With the UN, we have urged the Government of Sudan to suspend all regulations regarding the movement of humanitarian goods and people in Darfur for a period of three months.

Mr. Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the World Food Programme about the extent of the use of the rail line to deliver supplies from Port Sudan. [181336]

Hilary Benn: The use of the rail line has been discussed by the UN at co-ordination meetings in Khartoum. WFP have recently recommenced using the rail line to deliver supplies, but there are problems. Delays result from the poor state of repair and lack of capacity of the rail track as well as inadequate security for the trucks at night. Supplies transported by this route are therefore only a small proportion of those required. We are working with WFP to help to ensure that food supplies reach as many people as possible.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what multi lateral aid is available to deal with the crisis in Sudan; and what strategy he is pursuing to try to persuade the international community to increase its aid commitments. [181411]

Hilary Benn: The UN tracks the resources that have been made available by the international community for the crisis in Sudan. Their report of 27 June 2004 stated that $319,889,014 (about £170 million) had been pledged by the international community for humanitarian assistance to Darfur and Chad. This includes all funds pledged for assistance through NGOs and the Red Cross as well as in response to the UN appeal. I will place a copy of the report in the Libraries of the House. The majority of the contributors are bilateral donors. The total Humanitarian Aid contribution from the UK in response to the humanitarian crisis has been £34.5 million and from the EC (including ECHO) is $56,259,990 (£30 million) since September 2003.

The UN tables demonstrate that the UK has provided 19.4 per cent. of the total response to the crisis since September 2003. Over 66 per cent. of total funding has been provided by the US, UK and EC. The UK is also the largest donor in the non-food sector. I have been urging other donors to make significant contributions in response to the crisis in Sudan. I have written on a number of occasions to my colleagues in development ministries in the OECD and raised the issue of Darfur in discussions at the EU Development Ministers Informal on 1 June at the Tidewater meeting of donors on 22 June and with EU Commissioner Nielsen on 30 June. In addition, there are continuing discussions with other donors at official level in Khartoum and in donor capitals.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Sentencing

21. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Solicitor-General on how many occasions the Law Officers have used the power to refer a sentence to the Court of Appeal on the basis that it is unduly lenient. [181618]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers used the power to refer a sentence to the Court of Appeal in respect of a total of 149 defendants in 2001, 134 defendants in 2002 and 97 defendants in 2003. Figures in. respect of the total number of cases referred in the years 1989–2002 are set out in a table in my written answer, 24 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 23W.

Fraud

22. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Solicitor-General what recent representations she has received from small business organisations regarding the Government's initiatives to tackle fraudulent schemes targeting the small firms sector. [181619]

The Solicitor-General: I have not received any representations regarding these initiatives.

Football Violence (Convictions)

Mr. Ben Chapman: To ask the Solicitor-General what contact representatives of the Crown Prosecution

Service have had with their Portuguese counterparts for the purpose of ensuring the validity of convictions and sentences for football violence. [181613]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service routinely liaises with the appropriate officials in embassies abroad, including the Portuguese Embassy, through the Home Office Judicial Co-Operation Unit, whenever there is a need to have confirmation of an individual's conviction or sentence. This is done regardless of whether the conviction and/or sentence relates to football violence or any other criminal matter.

Investigation Legal Advisers

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Solicitor-General how many investigation legal advisers there *(a)* were immediately prior to July 2003 and *(b)* have been since July 2003. [176434]

The Solicitor-General: In July 2003 there were seven investigation legal advisers. At the time of transfer of the investigation legal advisers to HM Treasury there were still seven investigation legal advisers. At present although there are seven posts, only four are filled.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans there are to transfer responsibility for investigation legal advisers to HM Treasury. [176435]

The Solicitor-General: In an answer to a written question, 4 December 2003, *Official Report* (Lords), columns 32–33WA, the Attorney-General said that:

> "The Government also accepts the recommendation that investigation legal advisers should move to become the responsibility of HM Commissioners of Customs and Excise, on the basis that these advisers will not be involved in the prosecution process. This decision is subject to review after two years".

The ILAs have been the responsibility of HM Commissioners to Customs and Excise since that date.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Solicitor-General what plans the Law Officers have to increase the number of investigation legal advisers. [176436]

The Solicitor-General: I have no plans to increase the number of investigation legal advisers in Customs and Excise. They are not the responsibility of Customs and Excise Prosecution Office which the Law Officers superintend. Investigation legal advisers are a matter for the main Customs and Excise Department.

TRANSPORT

Irish-registered Vehicles

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many prosecutions there were of drivers of Irish-registered vehicles that did not have current Irish road tax in *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04. [181612]

Mr. Jamieson: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency successfully prosecuted 264,764 cases in 2002–03, and 274,348 cases in 2003–04, for vehicle excise duty and vehicle registration offences in Great Britain. Separate statistics are not kept for foreign registered vehicles.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants and what percentage of the total Civil Service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180172]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1292–3W.

Cycling

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Departmental budget was allocated to cycling in each of the last 10 years. [180668]

Dr. Howells: Many strands of my Department's funding, for example, that provided for road maintenance, will be of benefit to cyclists. It is therefore not possible to provide a meaningful assessment of the proportion of Departmental funding allocated to cycling.

Nevertheless, there are conspicuous examples of funding which target cycling alone. Greatest among these is funding through the Local Transport Planning (LTP) process. Local authorities (outside of London) fund cycling capital schemes from the Integrated Transport (IT) Block grant made by my Department as part of the Local Transport Planning (LTP) process. Allocation of funds from the IT block is a matter for the individual local authority. The LTP regime has been in operation since 2001–02 and only since its inception has the Department collected returns specifically on local authority spend on capital schemes for cycling. The tables sets out spend or forecast spend on cycling schemes derived from returns from local highway authorities (outside of London), as compared with total spend on schemes under the IT block and funds allocated by the Department under the IT block.

LTP spend/forecast (2004–05 settlement figures) on cycling schemes

£000

	[1]*2001–02*	[2]*2002–03*	[3]*2003–04*	[3]*2004–05*	[3]*2005–06*
Spend/forecast—cycle schemes	29,583	39,457	36,127	39,422	40,734
Spend/forecast—IT block schemes	438,036	661,949	669,940	717,121	691,260
Cycle spend as percentage of IT block	6.8	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.9

[1] Spend
[2] Forecast Outturn Spend
[3] Forecast

Allocation

	Allocation— IT block	*Cycle spend as percentage of IT block allocation*
2001–02	529,045	5.6
2002–03	564,768	7.0
2003–04	621,321	5.8
2004–05	659,183	6.0

Since 2000, funding for cycling initiatives in London has been the responsibility of Transport for London which is funded through a block grant from my Department. Under the direction of the Mayor for London, TfL is free to allocate this grant in accordance with its priorities for transport in the capital. It spent £13.6 million on cycling measures in 2003–04.

Additionally, the Department awarded direct funding of £2.18 million for local cycling projects through its Cycling Projects Fund in 2002–03. In 2003–04 it provided a further £2.2 million through the fund.

Finally, in 2002–03 and 2003–04, the Department funded the English Regions Cycling Development Team to assess and improve local authority performance on cycling at a cost of £3.18 million including VAT.

DVLA

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how long it has taken on average for the DVLA to *(a)* update its register following notification of a change of address and *(b)* issue a new document following notification of change of address in the most recent period for which figures are available. [180114]

Mr. Jamieson: For 2003–04 DVLA handled in excess of 13 million notifications of change affecting vehicle records and 3 million affecting driver records. DVLA issued 95 per cent. of new documents following a notification of change within 12 days for vehicle Registration Certificates. Actual performance attained in May 2004 for Registration Certificates was 96.29 per cent. DVLA aims to issue driving licences 15 working days following receipt at the Centre of an application complete in all respects. This may take longer if checks need to be made on health or personal details.

Ministerial Visits

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will list the travel costs incurred by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* each Minister within his Department, for each of the last 10 years; [175659]

(2) how much his Department spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* car, *(b)* train, *(c)* aeroplane and *(d)* helicopter, in each of the last 10 years. [175664]

Dr. Howells: In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government has published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government has also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for earlier years could only be obtained at disproportionate cost and in some cases will no longer be held. Information for 2003–04 will be published in due course.

The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002 and gained an additional Minister in July 2003. The travel and subsistence costs incurred by *(a)* the Department including Ministers and *(b)* Ministers and their private office staff in each financial year are as follows:

		(£s)
29 May 2002- 31 March 2003	*(a)* 1,606,589	*(b)* 83,518
1 April 2003- 31 March 2004	*(a)* 1,919,678	*(b)* 121,567

Information concerning costs incurred by Ministers alone could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

My Hon. Friend the Minister of the Cabinet Office has asked Nick Matheson, Chief Executive of the Government Car and Despatch Agency to write to the right hon. Member with details of the cost of Ministerial vehicles provided to this Department.

Information about the mode of transport used by Ministers on departmental business is not held centrally. Ministers use a variety of public transport services when undertaking departmental business.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys were made by helicopter by each Minister in his Department and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years; and what the journey length was in each case. [175738]

Dr. Howells: The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002.

The Secretary of State has travelled by helicopter on three occasions: to inspect the route of the M6 toll road; to see the location of airports in the South East (when he was accompanied by Mr Tony McNulty); and during an exercise by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Mr David Jamieson has undertaken two journeys on departmental business using helicopters: to fly over the location of a possible airport in East Kent; and once during a visit to Slovenia.

Details are not held on the length of these journeys.

MOT Test Pad Fee

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the reasons were for the increase in the MOT test pad fee; [180159]

(2) when the increase in MOT test pad fees became effective; and what the percentage increase of the fee was; [180160]

(3) how monies raised as a consequence of the increase to the MOT test pad fee will be used; [180161]

(4) what additional income has been raised as a result of the increase in MOT test pad fees. [180162]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* Charges for pads of blank MOT certificates are reviewed each year along with the test fee. There will be no increase in the charge for 2004. The charge will be increased again probably in 2005 after the expected roll-out of MOT computerisation to provide VOSA with additional income to fund a full year's operation of the service.

VOSA's income from sales of pads of MOT certificates covers its costs administering and controlling standards in the MOT testing scheme. Since 2000 the charge has also funded VOSA's costs managing the PFI contract with Siemens Business Services (SBS) to deliver MOT computerisation. The additional income raised as a result of the certificate charge increase of 25p per certificate in August 2003, was £3.99 million. Some income from charges will be used to smooth the transition to the full certificate charge increase that will be necessary to fund the MOT computerised service once all MOT garages are linked to the service from mid-2005.

Motor Insurance Contracts

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the location and number of all exits from motorways in England and Wales that are controlled *(a)* full and *(b)* part-time by traffic lights. [179902]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 23 June 2004]:* The Highways Agency has identified the following motorways in England that have one or more exit slip roads controlled by full time traffic signals:

M1 at junctions 5, 10 to 15, 19, 21, 24 to 26, 28, 33, 34, 40 and 42
M2 at junctions 3 and 5
M3 at junctions 1, 3 to 6, 9 to 11 and 13
M4 at junctions 3 to 8/9, 11 to 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19
M5 at junctions 1 to 4, 6,16 to 19, 21, 25, 29 and 30
M6 at junctions 5, 9, 10, 15,16, 19, 23, 24, 27 and 34
M11 at junctions 7, 8 and 13
M18 at junction 5
M20 at junctions 4 and 10
M23 at junctions 9 and 10
M25 at junctions 1A to 3, 6, 8,10, 11,14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 28 to 31
M27 at junctions 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11
M32 at junctions 1 and 2
M40 at junctions 1, 4, 9 and 15
M42 at junctions 1, 2, 4, 6 and 10
M53 at junction 5
M56 at junctions 4, 6, 11 and 12
M57 at junction 6
M58 at junction 1
M60 at junctions 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 15, 18 to 24, 26 and 27
M62 at junctions 6, 26, 28, 31 to 33
M65 at junction 4
M66 at junction 2
M67 at junctions 1 and 3
M602 at Albion Way and Regent Road and junction 2
M606 at Staygate Interchange
M621 at junctions 1, 3, 4 and 7
A1(M) at junctions 4 and 8
Al94(M) at White Mare Pool Interchange

The Highways Agency has also identified the following motorways in England with one or more exit slip roads controlled by part time traffic signals:

Ml at junction 31
M2 at junction 4
Ml 8 at junctions 1 and 3
M55 at junction 1
M60 at junction 17
M62 at junction 20
M621 at junction 2
A1(M) at junctions 3, 6, 61, 62 and 63

Approximately 80 km of motorways in England are owned and managed by local highway authorities; information about exit slip roads traffic signals on these roads is not readily available.

The National Assembly for Wales is responsible for motorways in Wales.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings his Department has held with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister concerning the powers of elected regional assemblies. [180446]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has held a number of meetings with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister about the statutory provisions and other arrangements required to give effect to the transport powers of elected regional assemblies set out in the White Paper "Your Region, Your Choice".

Road Safety

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of road accidents in 2003 occurred *(a)* at road junctions, *(b)* on roads where lanes had been closed off, *(c)* on motorways, *(d)* on dual carriageways, *(e)* in areas subject to 30 mph speed limits, *(f)* in areas subject to 40 mph speed limits and *(g)* in areas subject to 70 mph speed limits. [181497]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* 60 per cent. of all injury road accidents in Great Britain in 2003 were at junctions; 4 per cent. were on motorways; 16 per cent. on dual carriageways which include motorways; 64 per cent. were on roads subject to 30 mph speed limits; 8 per cent. were on roads subject to 40 mph speed limits and 7 per cent. occurred on roads subject to 70 mph speed limits.

We are unable to provide information about roads where lanes have been closed off and it is important to remember that the numbers quoted in the answer above are not mutually exclusive. For example motorways are counted both in the dual carriageway figure and the all roads subject to a 70 mph speed limit percentage, and dual carriageways would also cover roads subject to a 40 mph speed limit.

Ryde Tunnel

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to retain the flexibility of Ryde Tunnel to take standard railway gauge and light railway tramcar stock. [181676]

Mr. McNulty: There are no plans to change the dimensions of the tunnel at Ryde in any way.

Vehicle Operator Services Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the costs of the Vehicle Operator Services Agency's IT provision was at the end of the previous contract with EDS as a percentage of turnover; and what the projected costs of IT provision at the end of the current contract with Atos Origin are. [180386]

Mr. Jamieson: The final year of the EDS contract was 2002. During this calendar year the Vehicle Inspectorate's turnover was £100.1 million. Payments to EDS amounted to £5.8 million, which is 5.8 per cent. of turnover.

The contract with Atos Origin will run until 31 December 2011. The projected turnover for the calendar year 2011 for the Vehicle Inspectorate part of VOSA is £144.3 million, and the contracted IT services provision costs is £6.7 million, 4.6 per cent. of turnover.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

12. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, if he will make a statement on provision of non-vocational adult education. [181606]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government is committed to continuing a wide range of opportunities in non-vocational adult education including literacy and numeracy and opportunities for those returning to learning who want a first step on the learning ladder.

In addition, to safeguard learning for personal fulfilment the Government has agreed with the LSC a budget of £207 million in 2004–05 for adult education secured through Local Education Authorities, an increase of 43 per cent. compared with funding in 2000–01 of £145 million.

School Funding

13. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, if he will make a statement on the financial provision for schools in 2004–05. [181607]

Mr. Miliband: The school funding settlement for 2004–05 is designed to promote stability and certainty for schools in their financial planning and management. It includes a guaranteed increase in funding of at least 4 per cent. per pupil for every school (where pupil numbers are static), additional resource at LEA level, and a package of transitional support to help schools in the greatest difficulties balance their budgets by 2006–07.

Protocol System

14. **Mr. Rendel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, if he will make a statement on the Protocol system. [181608]

Alan Johnson: The new Protocol system has been developed in partnership with the Student Loans Company to process all applications for higher education student finance. Following successful piloting in 2003–04, the system is being used by all Local Education Authorities to process 2004–05 applications. Progress is being closely monitored.

School Bullying

15. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on his policy on bullying in schools. [181609]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have published a guidance pack "Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence" and an anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying with detailed advice on combating bullying. In November 2003 I launched an Anti-bullying Charter for Action for schools, which thousands of schools have signed. The Charter includes guidance on effective practice to help schools enhance their anti-bullying work.

The Government's "make a difference" Anti-Bullying campaign has put this issue at the centre of our focus on improving behaviour and attendance in all our schools.

Playing for Success

16. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the Playing for Success programme. [181610]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: Playing for Success is going from strength to strength. 103 clubs have signed up from a wide range of sports, with 83 centres now open. We expect to reach our target of 100 centres open by 2006, a year early. Four successive evaluation studies, undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research, found significant improvements in literacy, numeracy, ICT skills and motivation to learn among pupils attending centres.

Reading Attainment

17. **Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on reading attainment in primary schools. [181611]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: The National Literacy Strategy has transformed the teaching of reading in our primary schools. In 2003, 81 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved the expected standard for their age compared to 67 per cent. in 1997. The report last year from the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study found that England's 10-year-olds achieved the third highest standards of reading of all the participating countries.

Children's Diets

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with organisations representing school governors on improving children's diets. [181602]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with organisations representing school governors on improving children's diets. However, the Food Standards Agency is working closely with the National Governors' Council to encourage school governors' promotion of food and nutrition issues within their schools.

In addition, we are currently working across government on a Healthy Living Action Plan. It will bring together all the elements that contribute to a whole school approach to food and nutrition: the curriculum; food/meals available; pupil views; the role of heads, governors and other staff; and partnership working.

Infant Class Sizes

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average infant class size was in the *(a)* Jarrow constituency and *(b)* north-east in each year since 1997. [173384]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: A table giving the requested class size information for all parliamentary constituencies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Class size information for the north-east region is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary schools: Average infant class size[1]—position in January each year 1997 to 2004 (provisional)—Jarrow parliamentary constituency and north-east region

	Average size of Key Stage 1 classes	
	Parliamentary constituency	*North-east region*
1997	25.8	26.7
1998	26.7	26.9
1999	25.0	25.8
2000	24.5	25.0
2001	23.6	24.4
2002	24.3	24.4
2003	24.9	24.6
2004[2]	24.9	24.6

[1] Classes taught by one teacher
[2] Provisional
Source:
Annual Schools' Census

Mathematics Teaching

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to help improve the teaching of mathematics following the publication of the Adrian Smith Report. [181596]

Mr. Charles Clarke: I set out the government's initial response to Professor Adrian Smith's report in a written ministerial statement on 28 June.

In that statement, I announced measures to:

Recruit and retain more highly skilled Maths teachers;

Set up a National Centre of Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics;

Develop local school networks with access to mathematics expertise;

Develop strong links across all sectors and strengthen National Strategies at Key Stage 2 and 3.

These proposals will provide an effective answer to the challenges ahead and represent a fair balance between the needs of mathematics as a subject, what is reasonable in the context of other subjects and what is affordable.

Ministerial Visits

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will list the travel costs incurred *(a)* by his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* by each Minister within his Department, for each of the last 10 years; [175649]

(2) how many journeys were made by helicopter by each Minister in his Department and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years; and what the journey length was in each case. [175729]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These reports include information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and in some cases will no longer be held. Information for 2003–04 will be published in due course. In respect of domestic travel, the information requested is not held centrally and to collect it would incur disproportionate cost. The Department does not collect information on journeys made by helicopter. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

PFI/PPP

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* book value of the stakeholding, *(b)* onward sale price and *(c)* arrangements for sharing any windfall gain from subsequent refinancing and arrangements are for each of the private finance initiative and public-private partnership schemes his Department has supported for (i) schools, (ii) universities and (iii) learning and skills councils where there has been an onward sale of the private sector stakeholding into secondary market. [181499]

Mr. Miliband: As far as schools PFI projects are concerned the Department does not collect or collate such information as to do so would involve disproportionate cost. These matters are part of the commercial contractual arrangements between local authorities and private sector providers. The standard schools PFI contract provides for any re-financing gains subsequent to contract signature to be shared equally between the public and private sectors.

Neither the Department nor its NDPBs have a direct interest in PFI projects in the HE or FE sector and therefore the information is not collected.

School Playing Fields

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action he is taking to retain school playing fields. [181576]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 was introduced on 1 October 1998 to stop the indiscriminate sale of school playing fields that occurred in the 1980s and early to mid 1990s. During this time there was widespread concern at the unrestricted sale of school playing fields. If a local authority wanted to sell a school playing field there was

nothing to stop it and it could spend the proceeds as it wished. Local authorities and governing bodies of all maintained schools now need the Secretary of State's consent before they can dispose of a playing field or any part of a playing field. Applications to sell school playing fields are only approved where it is clear that they meet the needs of local schools and their communities and that any proceeds are used to improve school sports provision or education facilities.

Specialist Comprehensive Schools

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many specialist comprehensive schools there are, broken down by type. [181605]

Mr. Miliband: Of the 2,782 comprehensive schools in England, 1,724 (62 per cent.) are specialist, including newly designated schools which I announced earlier today and which will start operating in September. Of those 1,724, 278 are Arts Colleges, 135 are Business and Enterprise Colleges, 28 are Engineering Colleges, 15 are Humanities Colleges, 172 are Language Colleges, 129 are Maths and Computing Colleges, three are Music Colleges, 192 are Science Colleges, 252 are Sports Colleges, 486 are Technology Colleges, and 34 have a combined specialism.

TREASURY

Breast Cancer

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many men *(a)* have been diagnosed with and *(b)* have died from breast cancer in each of the last five years. [181359]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Charles Hendry, dated 1 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning how many men *(a)* have been diagnosed with and *(b)* have died from breast cancer in each of the last five years. I am replying in his absence. [181359].

The latest year for which figures on newly diagnosed cases are available is 2001. Figures on the number of deaths occurring in each year are available up to 2002. The numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in men in England, for the five years 1997–2001 are given in the table below. Comparable numbers of deaths occurring in these years and in 2002 are also given in the table:

Number of newly diagnosed cases of, and deaths from, breast cancer in men in England, 1997–2002

	Newly diagnosed cases	*Deaths*
1997	230	65
1998	265	73
1999	272	64
2000	206	66
2001	245	78
2002	n/a	78

Note:
For newly diagnosed cases between 1997 and 2001 and deaths between 2001 and 2002, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50. For deaths between 1997 and 2000, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 175.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Child Benefits (Wales)

Denzil Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Wales are benefiting from *(a)* the child tax credit and *(b)* the child benefit. [181801]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest published estimates appear in *(a)* Child and Working Tax Credits. Quarterly Statistics. April 2004 and *(b)* Child Benefit. Quarterly Statistics. February 2004, respectively. These publications appear on the Inland Revenue website at: www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/index.htm

Brain Tumours

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have been diagnosed as suffering from a brain tumour in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. [181363]

Ruth Kelly *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Charles Hendry, dated 1 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question concerning how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have been diagnosed as suffering from a brain tumour in each of the last 10 years, broken down by region. I am replying in his absence. [181363].

The latest year for which figures are available is 2001. The number of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer in England for children aged under 15 and adults aged 15 and over for each of the ten years 1992–2001 by Government Office Region are given in the attached table.

Number of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer in England, children aged under 15 and adults aged 15 and over, by Government Office Region, 1992–2001

Government Office Region	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*
Children (0–14)					
North East	16	10	11	13	13
North West	27	41	31	33	33
Yorkshire and The Humber	30	30	22	30	20
East Midlands	18	18	19	27	16
West Midlands	35	23	23	25	24
East of England	22	17	31	21	24
London	23	29	30	26	35
South East	41	37	44	36	29
South West	19	24	22	24	22

Number of newly diagnosed cases of brain cancer in England, children aged under 15 and adults aged 15 and over, by Government Office Region, 1992–2001

Government Office Region	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*
Adults (15+)					
North East	165	178	187	154	174
North West	428	392	420	497	458
Yorkshire and The Humber	285	310	325	288	304
East Midlands	272	273	280	277	305
West Midlands	307	316	305	336	343
East of England	335	311	297	342	343
London	388	385	353	376	370
South East	540	525	509	581	540
South West	371	380	377	348	328

Government Office Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
Children (0–14)					
North East	10	14	10	13	21
North West	33	27	33	20	36
Yorkshire and The Humber	22	28	29	21	33
East Midlands	23	27	20	25	21
West Midlands	21	24	15	19	27
East of England	21	15	28	18	25
London	31	34	36	28	43
South East	39	44	42	43	32
South West	23	25	31	26	18
Adults (15+)					
North East	165	204	175	197	187
North West	447	464	447	474	459
Yorkshire and The Humber	323	327	312	337	358
East Midlands	299	290	299	318	273
West Midlands	334	313	329	331	285
East of England	397	369	353	392	361
London	386	373	406	419	391
South East	592	555	553	578	582
South West	382	346	342	447	385

Note:
For the years 1992 to 1994, International Classification of Disease, Ninth Revision Code (ICD-9) code 191. For the years 1995 to 2001, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C71.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Heathrow Customs Office

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reason was for the recent reduction in opening hours of the Heathrow Customs Office for passengers arriving to clear unaccompanied baggage. [181693]

John Healey: Customs and Excise have limited resources with which to achieve their objectives of protecting the revenue and providing a service to the travelling public. Pressure on the resources available to Heathrow has been exacerbated by commercial operators who, in an attempt to gain an advantage over their competitors, have used the free service provided by the Customs Import Entry office (CIE). This service was not designed or resourced to cope with this work.

Customs and Excise took the decision that they could use the resources, formerly allocated to the CIE, in a more efficient and effective way by diverting them to areas of greater risk.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration was given to the costs to Heathrow passengers needing to use cargo agents to clear unaccompanied baggage due to the reduction in opening hours of the Heathrow Customs Office; and when the decision was taken to reduce those opening hours. [181694]

John Healey: After consultation with trade associations (the airlines, agents and cargo shed operators) Customs and Excise concluded that it was not unreasonable for a passenger, who was unable to use the service provided by the Customs Import Entry office (CIE), to make a payment of £50 to £60 for the services of a commercial agent.

The decision to implement the most recent reduction in opening hours of the CIE was taken in May 2004.

Military Equipment

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether military equipment sent from the United Kingdom to be used by British forces serving overseas is included in statistics relating to the value of British exports. [181764]

John Healey: Military equipment sent from the UK to be used by British forces serving overseas is not included in either the Overseas Trade Statistics or Annual Report of Strategic Export Controls publications that use HM Customs and Excise trade data.

Pension Liabilities

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of total public sector pension liabilities, broken down by major employers; and if he will make a statement. [171581]

Mr. Boateng: The value of the liabilities for each main, centrally administered scheme is contained in the report of the actuary as published in the schemes' Resource Accounts.

Pensions

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will publish in full the responses to the Treasury's December 2003 consultation paper on the taxation of pensions. [181384]

Ruth Kelly: The summary of responses to the consultation is on the Inland Revenue website, and the non-confidential responses have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Retirement Annuities (Tax Refunds)

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many United Kingdom recipients of retirement annuities are eligible for refunds of any part of the basic rate tax deducted at source from such payments. [180664]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available.

The Inland Revenue are setting up a joint working group, including representatives from both RAC providers and those who represent the pensioners interests such as the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group, to carry out an assessment of the scale of the problem and to explore options for resolving this issue by April 2007. The group will also look at practical solutions in the short term to help those pensioners who may be suffering a cash flow disadvantage under the current system.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Rural Housing

David Davis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the projected demand for rural housing is in the East Riding of Yorkshire for the next 10 years; and how he intends to meet that demand. [181589]

Keith Hill: East Riding of Yorkshire Council has estimated the annual average rate for new housing provision over the next 10 years to be 1,050 dwellings per annum. More specific figures for rural areas are not available.

The Regional Planning Body and the Regional Housing Board have agreed a joint methodology for estimating the scale and distribution of new housing to be used in the Regional Spatial Strategy (draft to be submitted to Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber in April 2005) and the revised Regional Housing Strategy to be submitted to my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister for approval in May 2005. The Regional Spatial Strategy will include figures at local authority level, which authorities will then use in producing their Local Development Frameworks. The Regional Housing Board's investment strategy is already delivering the region's share of the Government's affordable rural housing target for 2004–05 and 2005–06. Investment in later years will be determined in future Spending Reviews.

The Housing Corporation/Countryside Agency have commissioned a regional housing needs study with a view to developing a methodology to identify the wards with the largest affordability problems. The research findings are due to be finalised later this year and will be used to prioritise capital investment targeting across the region.

Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act

Paul Flynn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects a third commencement order to bring into force the various remaining leasehold provisions in the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 to be made. [181710]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister anticipates making a commencement order in November 2004 for the remaining leasehold provisions in respect of England. The Welsh Assembly has devolved responsibility for secondary legislation in Wales. The hon. Member may wish to write to that office in respect of a commencement order for Wales.

Exploding Fuel Tanks

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many fire service personnel were *(a)* injured and *(b)* fatally injured during the course of their duties as a result of exploding fuel tanks in each of the last 10 years. [181486]

Mr. Raynsford: Information collected by the office of the Deputy Prime Minister on firefighter injuries in these circumstances is available from 1994, and is tabled as follows:

Fire and rescue service personnel casualties (excluding precautionary checks) at fires where a fuel tank exploded. UK. 1994–2002

	Casualties	
	Fatal	*Non-fatal*
1994	0	75
1995	0	80
1996	0	51
1997	0	41
1998	0	40
1999	0	30
2000	0	35
2001	0	30
2002[1]	0	25

[1] Excluding any casualties that may have occurred during the period of industrial action in November 2002.

Source:
ODPM, FDR1 returns.

Fire Service (Radio Procurement)

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what conclusions relevant to the procurement of a digital radio system for the Fire Service he has drawn from the performance of the Airwave police radio network. [181555]

Mr. Raynsford: The main requirements for a wide-area radio system for the Fire and Rescue Services were set out in an EU procurement notice in October 2002. Subsequently the Invitation to Submit Proposals issued 31 July 2003 set out the functional requirements for a national wide-area radio system that meets the operational needs of the Fire and Rescue Service in a changing environment. Companies were invited to put forward their own technical solutions to meet those requirements and the contract is still under negotiation.

Housing

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list by local authority area *(a)* the amount of local authority social housing grant paid in the year 2002–03, *(b)* the amount of housing capital receipts for the year 2002–03 and *(c)* the amount of housing corporation grant for the period 2004–05. [181566]

Keith Hill: Social Housing Grant paid through Local Authorities in 2002–03; the amount of housing capital receipts for the year 2002–03; and the allocations of Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme for 2004–05 listed by local authority has been made available in the library of the House.

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the assessment of the backlog of housing need used in Chapter 5 of the Barker Review of Housing Supply in the UK. [181633]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not make national or regional estimates of housing need, as such estimates are unable to reflect adequately the diversity of needs and priorities at the local level. In the past, such estimates have led to the provision of new housing in areas where this did not represent the best use of resources. However, we have accepted in principle the case made by Kate Barker in her Review of Housing Supply in the United Kingdom that a significant increase in social housing is needed and will be working through the detailed implications over the next 18 months.

Regional Housing Boards in drawing up Regional Housing Strategies, Regional Planning Bodies and local authorities are the main bodies charged with making assessments of housing need in order to carry out their housing functions.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does collect and publish data from local authorities on decisions made on applications for assistance under the homelessness legislation and the number of households in temporary accommodation.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Harry Cohen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much neighbourhood renewal money has been spent in Leyton in each financial year since the inception of the allocation; how much has been allocated to the area to date; what the arrangements are for people to discover in detail how the money has been spent; and if he will make a statement. [180747]

Phil Hope: The London Borough of Waltham Forest has been awarded a total of £10.85 million Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) from April 2001 until March 2006. Of the £54.7 million allocated up to March 2004, it is not possible to define precisely how much NRF has been specifically spent in Leyton as a number of cross cutting interventions have been commissioned that cross ward boundaries. However, last year 200k was specifically allocated to Leyton.

While the Local Strategic Partnership has agreed to spend the majority of future NRF on a cross cutting agenda (14–19 year olds), it has also agreed to allocate £200k (for the next two years) to each of the five priority areas, of which Leyton is one.

Further, in December 2003 Leyton was awarded a Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder which attracts £300k per year for up to seven years.

Details on NRF spend are reported through the Community Councils on a regular basis. The £200k NRF spend specific to Leyton is determined locally by the Leyton Neighbourhood Forum, a representative of which has a seat on the Leyton Neighbourhood Management Board and reports directly to it.

New Buildings (Regulations)

Bob Russell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he gives to planning authorities regarding the design and construction of new buildings and the capacity to withstand earthquakes. [181756]

Keith Hill: None. However, such issues may be considered as part of compliance with Part A of the Building Regulations, and are therefore not for local planning authorities.

Referendums (Leaflets)

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he will be taking to ensure that the content of leaflets distributed to households in regions due to hold a referendum on an elected regional assembly is objective; whether he will be consulting the Electoral Commission on their content; and whether he will consult the yes and no campaigns in each of the regions. [179949]

Mr. Raynsford: As with the rest of the Government's Information Campaign, the leaflets distributed to households will be in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code, Guidance on the Work of the Government Information Service, and the "Referendums on establishing elected regional assemblies: Guidance for civil servants on their role and conduct". The purpose of the leaflet is to explain the proposals for elected regional assemblies to voters to enable them to make an informed choice at the forthcoming referendums.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects that the lead Yes and No campaigns will be appointed by the Electoral Commission in September. The Government will not be showing the leaflet to the Electoral Commission in advance of publication.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Administration Budget

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what progress has been made towards the 5 per cent. reduction in real terms in his Department's administration budget by 2008 announced by the Chancellor in the House on 17 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 331. [176508]

Mrs. McGuire: The real terms reduction of 5 per cent. or more will be a central feature of the public spending settlements for 2006–08 to be announced in detail later this year.

Departmental Staff

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total amount paid by his Department to employment agencies for the supply of temporary staff was in financial year 2003–04. [178918]

Mrs. McGuire: The estimated total paid to employment agencies by the Scotland Office for the supply of temporary staff for 2003–04 was £68,197, of which £14,561 related to costs incurred by the Office of the Advocate-General.

Ministerial Visits

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the travel costs incurred by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* each Minister within his Department, for each of the last 10 years. [175654]

Mrs. McGuire: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in the staff handbook and all ministerial travel is undertaken fully in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2003–04 will be published in due course.

The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The following table shows ministerial and overall expenditure on travel and subsistence since that date.

£

Financial Year	*Office*	*Of which ministerial:*
2003–04[1]	[2]277,554	[3]13,147
2002–03	382,238	35,865
2001–02	382,618	52,122
2000–01	388,194	69,336
1999–2000[4]	226,244	46,575

[1] Financial year 2003–04 costs are provisional, pending finalisation of Annual Accounts.
[2] Of which £67,170 relates to expenditure incurred by the Office of the Advocate-General. Expenditure by the Office of the Advocate-General for earlier years is not held separately.
[3] Of which £1,552 relates to expenditure incurred by the Office of the Advocate-General.
[4] Part year, the Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many journeys were made by helicopter by each Minister in his Department and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years; and what the journey length was in each case. [175734]

Mrs. McGuire: No Scotland Office Minister has travelled by helicopter, at departmental expense, since the Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

Working Time Directive

Mr. Tynan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees in his Department have *(a)* signed a formal opt out from and *(b)* are exempt from the Working Time Directive; and how many employees in his Department have recorded hours, including any accruing on a flexitime basis, in excess of the maximum allowed under the Working Time Directive in the last month for which figures are available. [178373]

Mrs. McGuire: No staff in the Scotland Office have signed a formal opt out or are exempt from the Working Time Directive.

The Office maintains its awareness of staff who may work close to or surpass the 48-hour per week limit and who are not subject to an opt out agreement. Details of the numbers of hours employees work are monitored locally as part of the flexible working hours system and in line with relevant health and safety legislation. Information on specific hours worked on a monthly basis is not held centrally.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Police

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what progress has been made in merging the Royal Parks Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police; and if she will make a statement; [181715]

(2) for what reason the Royal Parks Constabulary has not merged with the Metropolitan Police; and if she will make a statement. [181714]

Mr. Caborn: The merger of the Royal Parks Constabulary with the Metropolitan Police Service requires primary legislation, and we will be bringing forward the necessary measures as soon as the legislative programme allows. In the meantime, policing of the Royal Parks is being undertaken jointly by the Royal Parks Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police Service under the terms of an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Amateur Sports Clubs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance is issued by her Department to amateur sports clubs on the facility to register with the Inland Revenue as a Community Amateur Sports Club. [181323]

Mr. Caborn: The Inland Revenue is responsible for administering the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme. Comprehensive information and guidance for

amateur sports clubs that wish to register for the scheme is provided on their website http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/casc/.

British Museum Trustees

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* procedure and *(b)* criteria applied for the appointment of British Museum trustees are; and what role she has in assessing the performance of trustees appointed by the Government. [179820]

Estelle Morris *[holding answer 30 June 2004]:* Under the provisions of the British Museum Act 1963, the museum is governed by a board of 25 trustees, 15 of whom are appointed by the Prime Minister, following an open and transparent selection process in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. Candidates are assessed against criteria reflecting the role they are to fill and detailed in role and person specifications published on the websites of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Cabinet Office. Of the remaining 10 trustees, one is appointed by HM the Queen, one each by the Royal Academy, Society of Antiquaries, the British Academy and the Royal Society, and five by the trustees themselves. Serving trustees' performance is assessed by the chair and this informs Ministers' decision whether or not to reappoint for a second term.

CABE

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision is made for public access to decisions made by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment design reviews; and what the standard timescale is for providing such access. [181414]

Mr. Caborn: The design review programme of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) offers advice to planning authorities and others on the design of selected development projects in England. CABE is a non-statutory consultee for planning applications, and it publishes its advice when it becomes aware a planning application has been submitted. CABE aims to publish its advice on its website, www.cabe.org.uk, within 10 days of finalising its comments. To encourage pre-planning application discussions, before an application is submitted CABE's advice is not placed in the public domain.

Cricket

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to enhance the playing of cricket at state schools. [181528]

Mr. Caborn: Cricket is one of many sports benefiting from the roll-out of school sport partnerships (50 per cent. of maintained schools from September 2004; 100 per cent. from September 2006). The 2003–04 survey of partnerships found that 85 per cent. of schools offer cricket to their pupils, making it the sixth most popular sport out of over 40 offered across all partnership schools. 45 per cent. of partnership schools have links with community cricket clubs (cricket being second only to football). We are providing over £800,000 to the England and Wales Cricket Board from 2003–04 to 2005–06 to enable them to increase further the numbers both of school-club links and of schools and pupils benefiting from them.

Government Art Collection

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to make the Government's Art Collection viewable online. [182047]

Estelle Morris: A website about the Government Art Collection (GAC) has been running since 2001 (www.gac.culture.gov.uk). Its on-line catalogue features all of the GAC's original works of art, and the GAC's holdings of modern and historical prints are gradually being added to it.

Television Access Services

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made by Ofcom towards finalising its code on television access services. [181512]

Estelle Morris: The matter raised is the responsibility of Ofcom, as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research will begin its operations. [180078]

Ms Hewitt: I have been asked to reply.

It is anticipated that the centre's board will hold its first meeting in September.

The Centre for Best Practice for Animals in Research (CBPAR) already carries out many of the functions of the proposed centre and will form the core of the National Centre. CBPAR will continue to operate during the transition period.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for statutory review of a refusal to grant asylum have been submitted; how many such applications have been granted; and how many substantive re-hearings of asylum applications were successful. [181505]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Administrative Court received the first applications for statutory review in May 2003. Although applications for statutory review can be made by the appellant or the Secretary of State, all applications to date have been made by the appellant. Between May 2003 and April 2004 a total of 914 applications for a statutory review

of a refusal by the Immigration Appeal Tribunal (IAT) to grant permission to appeal were received by the Administrative Court. In 165 of these applications the decision of the Tribunal was reversed.

The most recent information from the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) database, IRIS, indicates that no Tribunal appeals decided between May 2003 and April 2004 following statutory review were allowed.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the National Audit Office's findings on the relative value of spending on immigration case work and on removing failed asylum seekers. [181372]

Mr. Browne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate will consider carefully the findings in the National Audit Office report on improving the "Speed and Quality of Asylum Decisions". There are spend to save justifications for investing both in making initial asylum decisions more quickly, and in removing failed asylum seekers. The Government's strategy for asylum addresses all aspects of the end-to-end asylum process, and recognises that a balance needs to be struck in allocating resources appropriately between them.

Cannabis

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are for an awareness campaign to educate young people of the risk of pulmonary infections and respiratory cancer associated with cannabis smoking. [179328]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans for a campaign.

Correspondence

David Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his interim reply of 10 June 2004, ref. 177874, when a response will be sent to the letter of 4 May 2004 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North, concerning a constituent; and if he will state the reason for the delay. [180911]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 24 June. A response was delayed because of the need to arrange a home visit as set out in my letter to him.

Criminal Cases Review Commission

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the findings were of the psychologist's report to the Criminal Cases Review Commission on the subject of historical sex abuse; and what has been done by the Commission to implement recommendations. [180580]

Paul Goggins: The Commission has not received a psychologist's report specifically on historical sex abuse cases. It has received a report as part of its work on the review of child sexual abuse cases in general which sets out to identify the salient research, good practice and guidance on the application of scientific methodology to the investigation of contemporary and historical allegations of abuse and is based on well founded psychological principles. The report provides reference material for the review of cases.

A summary of the Commission's review in this area was passed in confidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Criminal Cases Review Commission has referred a case to the Court of Appeal owing to an error in a police method or procedure which led to the original conviction or sentence being amended, quashed or upheld. [180582]

Paul Goggins: The Commission analyses the issues considered in reaching a decision to refer a case to the Court of Appeal but not to the level of errors "in police method or procedure". It is also extremely seldom that there is a single determining factor in a referral as the Commission considers the totality of issues in every case. On this very restricted basis there have been notes of issues surrounding police activity in 95 referrals since the Commission was established in 1997.

DNA Evidence

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 317W, on DNA evidence, if he will undertake a study into the number of convictions which are quashed as a result of DNA evidence. [180271]

Paul Goggins: We have no plans to undertake such a study.

Drug Rehabilitation Treatment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to reduce waiting times for drug rehabilitation treatment in South Somerset. [163882]

Caroline Flint: Long waiting times have developed in Somerset because Somerset Drugs Service provides a wide range of treatment services and there were unpredicted peaks in demand on some of these services during last year. Subsequently waiting times increased for some services, specifically drug rehabilitation services.

There was also a breakdown in communication between Somerset Drug Services and Drug Action Team commissioners, including Primary Care Trust commissioners. However, the Drug Action Team commissioners have re-established links and with the support of the National Treatment Agency are working to ensure such a breakdown does not occur again. All partners are working together with the service to get back on track and to ensure that waiting times are reduced. A variety of strategies have been put into place to reduce waiting times, for example:

The Drug Action Team (DAT) is involved in the National Treatment Agency Opening Doors programme to reduce waiting times;

The DAT has invested in two peripatetic nurses in Somerset Drugs Service as a resource to reduce waiting times;

The DAT has made additional funding available of £205,600 for prescribing in this financial year to provide an additional 74 places;

The DAT commissioned a Strategic Review of the whole adult drug treatment system, which makes clear recommendations about reconfiguration of service provision, which the DAT is currently taking forward;

The DAT has established data collection system for waiting times by modality to ensure accurate monitoring is in place.

Further details on the strategies are available from the DAT.

Green Burials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures have been taken by the Government to encourage the use of ecologically-friendly burials, with particular reference to the procedure whereby bodies are freeze-dried and buried in biodegradable coffins. [178713]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1511W.

Illegal Weapons

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal firearms were *(a)* found and *(b)* confiscated by Lancashire police in each of the last three years. [180690]

Caroline Flint: The requested information is not available centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were found by police to be carrying knives in public areas in Lancashire in each of the last three years. [180691]

Caroline Flint: The requested information is not available centrally.

National Offender Management Service

Mrs. Helen Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the National Offender Management Service for *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 is; and what proportion will be allocated to (i) prisons and (ii) probation. [166593]

Paul Goggins: The 2004–05 Correctional Services Resource budget is £3,689 million and the Capital budget is £326 million. The costs of setting up the National Offender Management Service will be met from within this provision. Of the 2004–05 budget for Correctional Services, 22 per cent. has been allocated to probation and 60 per cent. has been allocated to prisons. Funding for 2005–06 onwards will be agreed as part of the current spending review.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the employing body is for prison staff under the National Offender Management Service arrangements. [179475]

Paul Goggins: Staff working in Her Majesty's Prison Service remain civil servants employed under authority delegated by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the Director General of the Prison Service. Consultation on the future organisational structure of the National Offender Management Service recently concluded. The responses to that consultation exercise are currently being considered. No changes will be made to the current status of Her Majesty's Prison Service as an Executive Agency of the Home Office until that work has been completed.

Offender Management

Mrs. Ann Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will be responsible for commissioning new prison establishments under the National Offender Management Service. [168781]

Paul Goggins: Ministers will be responsible for commissioning new prison establishments with advice from The Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service, Martin Narey.

Police Intelligence Database

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safeguards will be in place to ensure that information in the proposed police national intelligence database is confidential and accessible only by relevant persons. [181453]

Caroline Flint: Ownership of all police data rests with Chief Constables. Each force's security and access protocols must accord with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Community Security Policy that also governs usage of the Police National Computer (PNC). This will be reinforced in the Code of Practice to be prepared in response to Sir Michael Bichard's recommendation. For security reasons, I am not in a position to describe current the arrangements to prevent or detect unauthorised access, but I am satisfied these are adequate.

Police National Computer

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is authorised *(a)* to input and *(b)* to amend information on the Police National Computer; what procedures and arrangements are in place (i) to prevent and (ii) to uncover unauthorised hacking, including by persons authorised to access the Police National Computer; and if he will make a statement. [181166]

Caroline Flint: I would refer my hon. Friend to my earlier response on 22 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 1440W, which dealt with those who were authorised to access and amend information on the Police National Computer (PNC).

For security reasons I am not in a position to describe the arrangements that are in place to prevent or detect unauthorised access to the PNC but I am satisfied that these arrangements are adequate.

Prison Doctors

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many doctors work at Wymott and Garth prisons *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) contracted to the Prison Service and (ii) work as locums; how many other medical staff work at Garth and Wymott prisons (A) part-time and (B) full-time and to whom they are contracted to. [180076]

Paul Goggins: Wymott prison has one full-time locum doctor and an out-of-hours service is supplied by a local general practitioner's practice, which is a shared service between Wymott and Garth. Both are contracted to the Prison Service. There are a further 12 full-time medical staff working in the health care centre. One is employed by the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust and 11 are employed by the Prison Service.

Garth prison has two full-time doctors both of whom are contracted to the Prison Service. One is a locum and the other also provides cover at Wymott. A further 17 staff work in the health care centre: one full-time member of staff is employed by the Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust and the Prison Service employs 14 full-time and two part-time nurses.

Racism

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government measures to tackle racism; and if he will make a statement. [180101]

Fiona Mactaggart: Under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Government placed a public duty on public authorities to promote racial equality. The full benefits of this will be realised over time, as the duty becomes mainstreamed in the work of public bodies.

Research conducted on behalf of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) found that nearly 70 per cent. of public authorities and educational institutions felt that their work on implementing the duty had already produced positive results. The benefit most commonly cited was increased awareness of race equality in policy making and service delivery; other benefits included increased ability to ensure policies and services were targeted and designed appropriately.

Supporting evidence to the findings of the research conducted on behalf of the CRE have been published in the Audit Commission's report, The journey to race equality published in January 2004. This states that the duty to promote race equality and good race relations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act is the most influential driver of activity on race equality.

We are developing a Government wide Community Cohesion and Race Equality Strategy and as part of that work launched a consultation pamphlet Strength in Diversity. I refer my hon. friend to the statement I gave to the House on 19 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 49WS. Eradicating racism is at the heart of the strategy and through the consultation exercise we want to engage as broad a range of people as possible in finding ways to achieve this goal.

Teachers (Sexual Abuse)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the number of sexual abuse cases against teachers that reach court with flawed evidence on the part of the complainant. [180001]

Paul Goggins: The Home Office Court Proceedings database does not contain details of the circumstances of the offences for which prosecutions are brought, thus the status of the defendant is not available.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications of allowing teachers accused of sex abuse anonymity until conviction. [180003]

Paul Goggins: The Government has carefully considered whether defendants in cases of sexual offences, including those working within the education system, should be entitled to anonymity until conviction.

We do not believe that there is a case for this. While we appreciate that those accused can suffer distress, the Government believes that it is vital to maintain the principles of open justice which are necessary to the maintenance of public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The Association of Chief Police Officers have strengthened guidance on safeguards for those subject to accusations of sex abuse before they are charged. The Government is keen for effective measures to be put in place in this area and believes this is the right approach to dealing with the concerns. In addition, the Government committed to monitoring the results of the revised guidance and Press Complaints Commission regulation through the interdepartmental ministerial group on sex offending which has a remit to monitor the impact of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bankruptcy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many UK companies have gone bankrupt in each quarter of the last five years. [181023]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table below shows the numbers of company insolvencies in the UK in each quarter since 1999.

UK Company Insolvencies by Quarter 1999—present

Year	Quarter	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK Total
1999	Q1	3,912	153	16	4,081
	Q2	3,590	136	14	3,740
	Q3	3,376	144	14	3,534
	Q4	3,402	139	14	3,555
2000	Q1	3,637	136	22	3,795
	Q2	3,370	153	27	3,550
	Q3	3,709	139	15	3,863
	Q4	3,601	155	19	3,775
2001	Q1	3,943	166	16	4,125
	Q2	3,684	141	18	3,843
	Q3	3,640	108	11	3,759

UK Company Insolvencies by Quarter 1999—present

Year	Quarter	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK Total
	Q4	3,705	187	15	3,907
2002	Q1	4,141	240	12	4,393
	Q2	4,066	175	4	4,245
	Q3	3,807	184	18	4,009
	Q4	4,291	189	15	4,495
2003	Q1	3,797	183	30	4,010
	Q2	3,767	168	25	3,960
	Q3	3,314	154	19	3,487
	Q4	3,306	126	21	3,453
2004	Q1	3,248	153	19	3,420

Bogus Traders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions she has had with the Home Office on increasing co-operation between the police and trading standards departments to tackle bogus traders and distraction burglaries; and if she will make a statement. [181709]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have spoken to my colleague, the Minister for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety, about a cross departmental Ministerial Group to encourage greater cooperation between departments and enforcement agencies.

Doorstep Selling

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps she is taking to consult on the recent report on doorstep selling by the Office of Fair Trading. [181708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We welcome the market study report on doorstep selling. It is being carefully considered and we aim to respond within 90 working days. Any proposed legislative changes will be the subject of thorough consultation.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many registered applications are outstanding in employment tribunals; how many of these are part-time worker pension cases; and how many *(a)* are backlog from previous years and *(b)* have been lodged this year. [181214]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Based on the information currently held in the Employment Tribunals Service's statistical database, at the end of May 2004 a total of 109,530 tribunal applications are recorded as outstanding. Of this total there were 43,762 live part time worker pension applications.

The Employment Tribunals Service makes comparisons on backlogs and registered applications at the end of the financial year. For the financial year 2003–04, based on the information held in the Employment Tribunals Service's statistical database, a total of 111,170 tribunal applications were recorded as outstanding. A total of 55,178 applications were lodged in 2003–04 and the remaining 55,992 applications may be classified as backlog as they were registered in a previous financial year.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications have been registered in employment tribunals relating to flexible working regulations in each region; how many costs awards have been made against *(a)* respondents and *(b)* applicants in each region; and what the average cost award was in each region. [181216]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Flexible working regulations came into force on 6 April 2003. In the financial year ending 2003–04, based on the information held in the Employment Tribunal Service's statistical database, a total of 211 applications were registered relating to the flexible working regulations. Of this total, flexible working was identified as the main jurisdiction in 61 applications and in the remaining 150 applications flexible working was identified as a secondary jurisdiction.

Statistical information for individual regions is not readily accessible and could be produced only at disproportionate cost. Statistical data relating to individual jurisdictions, such as flexible working is also not readily available.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many cases concerned with *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal have been heard by an industrial tribunal in each region in each of the last five years. [181217]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the number of cases concerning equal pay, disability, sex and race discrimination and unfair dismissal which were disposed of at hearing by Employment Tribunals in each of the last five financial years.

	Equal pay	Disability	Sex	Race	Unfair dismissal
1998–99	377	415	1,320	1,140	11,872
1999–2000	143	456	1,110	771	9,604
2000–01	99	112	1,258	1,112	11,565
2001–02	236	618	1,136	829	9,143
2002–03	133	678	1,121	725	9,456
2003–04	114	587	882	761	9,634

Statistical information for individual regions is not readily available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures her Department has put in place to *(a)* provide advice and *(b)* share best practice with employers with respect to increasing the number of women in science, engineering and technology. [180065]

Ms Hewitt: My Department has awarded a contract to the JIVE Consortium to deliver a new Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology. Many of the services to be delivered under this contract, including advice and information on good employment practice for women in SET occupations, will be available online and the new website is being launched on 2 July. Other services, including direct

contact with employers to discuss how the Resource Centre can work with them to share best practice and provide them with relevant, tailored advice, will commence after the formal launch of the Centre on 16 September. The Government have allocated £800,000 per annum for three years to set up and operate the new Centre and an additional £500,000 per annum for development of a dedicated returners package.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures her Department has taken to raise the profile of women in science, engineering and technology. [180066]

Ms Hewitt: My Department has awarded a contract to the JIVE Consortium to deliver a new Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). Many of the services to be delivered under this contract, including raising the profile of women in SET occupations, will be delivered online. The new website, being launched on 2 July, will have a section dedicated to stories and reports which raise the profile of Women in SET. The contractor has also appointed a dedicated Marketing Officer and is the process of setting up a high-profile media advisory Group. There will be a pre-launch event, on 9 September, for the new Resource Centre as part of the BA Festival of Science and a well-publicised formal launch will take the format of a Conference on 16 September. The Government have allocated £800,000 per annum for three years to set up and operate the new Centre and an additional £500,00 per annum for the development of a dedicated returners package.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps she is taking to encourage employers to provide support for women in the science, engineering and technology sector. [180067]

Ms Hewitt: My Department has awarded a contract to the JIVE Consortium to deliver a new Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). The formal launch of the Centre will be at a Conference on 16 September to which representatives of a wide-range of SET employer organisations, including industry and academia, are being invited. As soon as the Centre has been launched, these employers will be invited to seek direct, tailored advice, provided by specialised consultants about the best ways in which they can support women working in their organisations and tackle the barriers which cause women not to reach their full potential. Also many of the services to be delivered under this contract, including publishing good practice case studies, will be delivered online. The new website, being launched on 2 July, will have a section dedicated to such case studies. The Government has allocated £800,000 per annum for three years to set up and operate the new Centre and an additional £500,00 per annum for the development of a dedicated returners package.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement on the work of the Promoting Science, Engineering and Technology for Women Unit in encouraging implementation of the Government's stategy on increasing female participation in science, engineering and technology. [180072]

Ms Hewitt: The Government's Strategy for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology sets out a new and enhanced role for the Promoting Science, Engineering and Technology for Women unit, now renamed the DiverSETy team to reflect its broader focus on all under-represented groups in SET. Since the publication of the Strategy, the DiverSETy team has been through a tendering process for the Resource Centre, followed by contract negotiations. A contract with the JIVE consortium was signed in May 2004, and the official launch will take place on 16 September 2004. The DiverSETy team also facilitated the appointment process of the Independent Implementation Group which has met twice. The members of this group were announced in January 2004 and the DiverSETy team provides secretariat support for its meetings. The DiverSETy team is strengthening relationships with relevant policy areas across DTI, other Government Departments (including their agencies) and the Research Councils to ensure that the representations and participation of women in SET is considered and incorporated across Government. This includes working towards the Government's target of 40 per cent. female representation on public bodies/policy committees by 2008 on which the DiverSETy team leads. The team is tasked with ensuring that mainstream science policy does not disadvantage women in SET and therefore scrutinises and comments on OST and Research Council policy documents to ensure that diversity is mainstreamed. Recently, it has also been working collaboratively with the DfES and the Treasury on the Skills chapter of the 10 year framework for Science and Innovation to ensure continuity of effort for girls and women in SET throughout education and employment.

The DiverSETy Team has continued to fund and support the Rosalind Franklin Awards which are administered for us by the Royal Society and which achieve excellent publicity for the Women in SET agenda.

Miners (Co-morbid Conditions)

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many miners found to have a co-morbid condition other than chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were *(a)* informed to seek further medical advice and *(b)* told of the impact that the co-morbid condition would have on their compensation payment; how many of the cohort with a co-morbid condition received a reduction in their damages; why co-morbid conditions are not recorded; whether there will be further medical investigation into the issue; whether medical experts representing both sides will be asked for their opinion. [181408]

Nigel Griffiths: It is in accordance with the High Court Judgment that claims are accurately and fairly calculated and therefore any co-morbid conditions for which the Department is not liable for must be taken into account when calculating compensation.

Where the examination by the respiratory specialist of live claimants during the full Medical Assessment Process (MAP) reveals previously undiagnosed conditions for which further investigation or treatment

may be appropriate cases are required to be handled sensitively with the claimant's GP being informed and the claimant advised to visit his GP.

Instances of co-morbid conditions are only required to be reported on in the MAP report. IRISC, the Department's claim handlers, are not required to record on their management information systems the number of instances a co-morbid condition was diagnosed and the impact that had on individual claims, as these conditions are not compensatable under the British Coal scheme.

The entire MAP process and the Claims Handling Agreement (CHA) have been soundly endorsed by the Judge, Sir Michael Turner, and found to be equipped to deal with cases involving co-morbid conditions. Where any doubts in an individual case are identified by either side the Medical Reference Panel (MRP), put in place jointly by the Department and the claimants' solicitors, can be consulted.

Pirate Broadcasters

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many active pirate broadcasting stations the Radiocommunications Agency has identified as operating in the UK in each year since 1997; how many *(a)* operations and *(b)* prosecutions the Agency has carried out against pirate broadcasters; what the conviction rate was; what the average custodial sentence was; what the average fine to (i) convicted pirates and (ii) businesses supporting and promoting pirate radio stations was; and if she will make a statement. [181626]

Mr. Timms: The Office of Communications (Ofcom) became the independent regulator responsible for all functions previously undertaken by the Radiocommunications Agency on 29 December 2003. Enforcement of the regulations and control of pirate radio stations is a matter for Ofcom and accordingly my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Retirement

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations she has received from *(a)* employers' organisations, *(b)* pensioners' organisations and *(c)* unions on the retirement age. [181046]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government sought views on options for retirement ages in the Age Matters consultation document published in summer 2003 and received over 400 responses, including responses from a wide range of employers' organisations, pensioners' organisations and unions. Government has most recently received representations on retirement ages from Help the Aged, The Pensions Commission, Engineering Employers Federation, Employers Forum on Age.

Royal Mail

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money has been saved by Royal Mail Group plc as a result of the decision to abolish the second daily postal delivery. [181019]

Mr. Timms: The cost savings to be made from the introduction of the single delivery are a commercial matter for the Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Statutory Paternity Pay

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 105W, on Maternity/Paternity Leave, what information she has *(a)* requested and *(b)* received from the Inland Revenue on the number of employees who have received statutory paternity pay. [181692]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department asked for figures on the take up of statutory paternity pay since April 2003, however, Inland Revenue will not be able to provide the full figures until February 2005. They have provided some initial information which is currently being considered.

Trade Union Political Funds

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average amount trade unions have spent through their political funds in each of the last five years. [181016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Based on figures published in the annual report of the Certification Officer (CO), the average amount trade unions have spent through their political funds, in each of the last five periods for which figures are available, is:

£

Time period	*Average spend per trade union with a political fund*
1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998	454,652
1 July 1998 to 30 September 1999	328,587
1 October 1999 to 30 September 2000	448,578
1 October 2000 to 30 September 2001	468,667
1 October 2001 to 30 September 2002	586,248

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many UK trade unions have political funds. [181017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As of 31 March 2004, the number of unions with political fund resolutions in force was 32.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency matrons *(a)* are eligible to claim £10,000 from the Accident and Emergency Patient Experience Fund, *(b)* have claimed £10,000 from the fund and *(c)* have received £10,000 for their hospital from the fund. [180285]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have made available £2 million in the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Patient Experience Fund. Any modern matron with responsibility for a A&E department is entitled to claim and receive £10,000 to improve the experience of patients in that department.

At the beginning of 2004, it was estimated that about 150 A&E departments, or about three-quarters of the total, were the responsibility of a designated matron. Interim monitoring earlier this year has generated information on about 60 departments where the money had been received and used. Matrons who have not yet claimed are still able to and so a final evaluation of the fund has not been completed.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency attendances he estimates there are per month by people of no fixed abode. [181212]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect this information and it is therefore impossible to make an estimate.

Allergies

Mr Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the Royal College of Physicians report, "Allergy: the Unmet Need"; [180570]

(2) how many people have required treatment from specialist allergy doctors in each year since 1997; [180571]

(3) if he will take steps to increase the number of specialist allergy doctors; [180572]

(4) what steps he is taking to ensure that local health authorities and NHS trusts develop and manage allergy services. [180573]

Dr. Ladyman: We welcomed the Royal College of Physicians' report and believe it is a useful contribution to the debate on how to improve National Health Service allergy services. It is the role of primary care trusts, in partnership with local stakeholders, to decide what services to provide for their populations, including those with allergies. They are best placed to understand local health care needs and commission services to meet them.

The information about the number of people requiring treatment from specialist allergy doctors is not held centrally. However the Royal College of Physicians estimated in their 2003 Report, "Allergy—the unmet need: a blueprint for better patient care", that around one in six of the population is affected by allergy.

The Department's September 2003 workforce census records 24 hospital medical staff specialising in allergy, including 20 consultants. The number of hospital medical allergy staff as a whole has doubled since September 2000, the first year allergy was collected as a separate speciality and numbers of consultants specifically increased by 14. The NHS Plan also announced that there would be 1,000 general practitioners with special interests by 2004. Already, there are over 100 GP-led schemes and around 35 nurse-led schemes.

Allergy has been allocated an additional centrally funded specialist registrar post in 2004–05 and a further centrally funded specialist registrar post in 2005–06. This is in recognition of the desire to increase the allergy workforce and trusts will still have the opportunity to locally fund further posts.

Mrs. Claire Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much public money his Department spent on allergy care in the NHS in the last year for which figures are available; [181071]

(2) what plans his Department have to increase spending on allergy care within the NHS. [181072]

Dr. Ladyman: Information on National Health Service funding for the diagnosis and treatment of allergies is not collected centrally. Strategic health authorities and primary care trusts receive unified allocations to cover the costs of hospital and community health services, discretionary funding for general practice staff, premises and computers and primary care prescribing.

The level of funding made available for the drugs, staffing and other costs of providing allergy services are determined locally. It is for health authorities, in partnership with other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to provide health services for their populations including those with allergies.

Anti-depressant Drugs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis he recommended an optimal dose for selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and related anti-depressant drugs. [178695]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As with all medicines, the recommendations for dosing of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) were made on the basis of the dose finding studies provided at the time of licensing and the outcome of clinical trials.

On 11 March 2004 the committee on safety of medicines issued advice reminding prescribers of the recommended starting dose of one SSRI: paroxetine (Seroxat). This followed re-review of the original dose finding studies for paroxetine and consideration of prescribing data which suggested a proportion of patients were being started on doses of paroxetine above those recommended for depression.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the results of clinical trials of paroxetine (Seroxat) which showed that patients treated with placebos experienced withdrawal reactions comparable in character and severity to those experienced by patients on the active drug. [178340]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Assessment of clinical trials with paroxetine indicate that 25 per cent. of patients experienced symptoms on stopping treatment and 15 per cent. of those experienced symptoms described as severe. In the same trials, 15 per cent. of patients experienced symptoms on stopping placebo and 9 per cent. of those experienced symptoms described as severe. The most common events reported in clinical trials as occurring on stopping both paroxetine and placebo include dizziness, nausea, insomnia, anxiety and headache. The incidence and character of the

symptoms experienced on withdrawal are reflected in the product information for prescribers (the summary of product characteristics) and the patient information leaflet.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the Medicines and Health Care Regulatory Agency to undertake a full, detailed, and publicly available review of the evidence on the suicide risk posed by selective seratonin re-uptake inhibitor antidepressant drugs for *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [180520]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The safety of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and in particular, any link to an increased risk of suicide is currently undergoing intensive review by an expert working group of the committee on safety of medicines (CSM).

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has communicated advice to doctors and patients as each stage of the review has been completed. An interim report, which sets out the group's advice and the action that has been taken as a result, was published on the MHRA/CSM website in September 2003. In December 2003, the CSM issued advice on the use of SSRIs that paroxetine, venlafaxine, sertraline, citalopram and escitalopram should not be used in children and young people under 18 years because of a lack of benefit in this patient population and an increased risk of adverse events, including suicidal behaviour.

The focus of the expert working group is now to complete its review of the available data relating to the safety of SSRIs, including that relating the risk of suicidal behaviour in adults. It expects to complete its work later this year, at which point its final report will be published.

Anti-TNF Alpha Therapy

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the funding of anti-TNF alpha therapy in the Portsmouth Hospitals Trust area. [181366]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* Portsmouth Primary Care Trust (PCT) has agreed to fund anti-TNF therapy in accordance with National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidance. Demand for anti-TNF therapy locally has been higher than the PCT anticipated and the PCT is now working closely with Portsmouth Hospitals National Health Service Trust to ensure that anti-TNF therapy is available to all for whom it is clinically appropriate.

Brain Tumours

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to increase the number of hospitals with facilities to treat brain tumour patients, with particular reference to specialist facilities for treating children with brain tumours; [181316]

(2) what steps are being taken by his Department to improve the prognosis for children diagnosed with a brain tumour; and if he will make a statement. [181365]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* It is for local health communities to decide how best to provide services for their local populations.

The Department has commissioned the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop service guidance on tumours of the brain and central nervous system for use in the national health service in England and Wales. The guidance will address services for the diagnosis, staging and treatment, follow up, rehabilitation and specific elements of supportive and palliative care that meet the particular needs of patients with brain and central nervous system tumours and of their families and carers. NICE expects to publish the guidance in August 2005.

The distinct needs of children with cancer have been increasingly recognised over recent years. That is why we have also commissioned NICE to produce service guidance for the NHS on child and adolescent cancers. The guidance will include recommendations on optimal forms of diagnostic services, treatment, support services and palliative care. It will also include advice on research, the transition from paediatric to adult services and specialist follow up for late effects of treatment. We expect the guidance to be published in February next year.

Both sets of guidance will support the planning, organisation and commissioning of services to ensure the best possible outcomes for cancer patients.

The Department issued Referral "Guidelines for Suspected Cancer" in 2000 to help general practitioners identify those patients who are most likely to have cancer and who therefore require urgent assessment by a specialist. These guidelines include a section on brain tumours in children.

The guidelines are currently being updated by NICE and are due to be published next year. The Department provides specific funding for a specialised research network on paediatric oncology. This network is led by the United Kingdom children's cancer study group (UKCCSG). The brain tumour group of the UKCCSG is currently running eight trials. In addition, several other trials are under development and a number of recent studies are being analysed.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce treatment waiting times for *(a)* children suffering from brain tumours and *(b)* all brain tumour patients; and if he will make a statement. [181318]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The NHS Cancer Plan sets out our strategy to reduce waiting times for cancer patients. A two week outpatient waiting time standard was introduced in 2000 for all urgent general practitioner referrals of suspected cancer. In the last quarter—January to March 2004—99.5 per cent, of urgent GP referrals for suspected brain and central nervous system cancers were seen by a specialist within two weeks. From 2001, a maximum waiting time of one month from urgent referral to first treatment was introduced for all children with cancer, including brain cancer. In the last quarter, all children who were urgently referred and subsequently diagnosed with cancer were treated within one month. By 2005, there will be a maximum wait of one month from diagnosis to first treatment and two

months from urgent referral to first treatment for all patients with cancer. Progress towards these targets is being achieved through increased investment, additional staffing levels, installing new and replacement radiotherapy and diagnostic facilities and streamlining care processes through the cancer services collaborative—improvement partnership.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to provide a central information resource on brain tumours, for use by patients and carers; [181319]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to provide information to *(a)* patients, *(b)* parents and *(c)* carers on the support available to brain tumour patients. [181321]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Government established a coalition for cancer information (CCI) in June 2002. The CCI brings together producers and consumers of cancer information from national voluntary organisations, the National Cancer Research Institute, the national health service and the Department. It has been established to oversee the development, delivery and dissemination of high quality information materials for those affected by cancer, including those with brain tumours, and their carers.

Recently published guidance from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) on improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer will benefit all patients with cancer, including those with brain tumours, and their carers. The Government have also commissioned NICE to develop service guidance on tumours of the brain and central nervous system for use in the NHS in England and Wales. Both pieces of guidance cover aspects of care such as communication and information. NICE has also been commissioned to produce service guidance for the NHS on child and adolescent cancers. The guidance will look at the interface with services provided by non NHS providers, including those providing support for families, carers and siblings, including bereavement support.

The Department also recently awarded a Section 64 core grant to the United Kingdom Brain Tumour Society of £34,000 spread over the three years beginning 2004–05.

Breast Cancer

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what campaigns his Department has undertaken to raise the awareness of male breast cancer. [181313]

Miss Melanie Johnson: There are a number of initiatives underway, many in conjunction with the voluntary sector and support groups, to increase both men's general health awareness and men's awareness of cancer. Most recently the Department provided £30,000 funding towards the production of the Men's Health Forum's Hayne's Cancer Manual for Men, a practical guide for men explaining the causes, symptoms and treatments for cancer in a style that is more accessible and appealing to men.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) improving outcomes in breast cancer guidance clearly stages that men are entitled to the same breast cancer services as women, though male breast cancer is very rare with under 300 reported cases in each year.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on annual mammogram screenings for women of 40 to 49 years of age who are assessed as having an increased risk of breast cancer. [181405]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The National Institute for Clinical Excellence published a clinical guideline on 23 June 2004 entitled, "The classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care". The guideline states that all women aged 40 to 49 years satisfying referral criteria to secondary or specialist care, at moderate or greater risk of familial breast cancer, should be offered annual mammographic surveillance.

The national health service will now be expected to implement the guideline's recommendations for good practice, which are based on the best available evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.

Care Homes

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the occupancy rates were for care homes, broken down by region, in each of the last three years. [181066]

Dr. Ladyman: The table shows the occupancy rate of registered beds in nursing homes for 2000–01 by region. Similar information is not available for residential homes.

I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that information is not available for later years.

Occupancy rates of registered beds in nursing homes for 2000–01, by region

Regional[1] Office	*Occupancy rate (percentage)*
England	81
Northern and Yorkshire	78
North West	79
Trent	81
West Midlands	82
Eastern	81
South and West	84
London	84
South East	84

[1] Regional and national rates are calculated using estimates for any missing data.

Source:
RH(N)B

Carer's Assessments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carer's assessments have been conducted under the Carer and Disabled Children Act 2000 in each year since the Act came into force. [181100]

Dr. Ladyman: The estimated number of carer's assessments and assessments of carers under 17 years of age are shown in the following table.

	Carer's assessments	*Carers under 17*
2000–2001	195,000	1,500
2001–2002	243,000	2,900
2002–2003	287,000	6,400

Information on the legislation under which the assessment is undertaken is not held centrally and so assessments made under the Carer and Disabled Children's Act 2000 cannot be separately identified.

Children's Hospices

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was received by each children's hospice from the public sector *(a)* as a proportion of its total funding and *(b)* in cash terms in the last year for which figures exist. [181064]

Dr. Ladyman: Information on the public sector share of funding for children's hospices is not collected centrally. Services provided by hospices are funded from a number of sources, including services commissioned by national health service primary care trusts and local authorities on the basis of their assessment of children's needs and their priorities.

Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representation he has received from diabetes sufferers regarding choice in the provision of insulin; and if he will make a statement; [181186]

(2) what his policy is on general practitioners continuing to prescribe both animal insulin and synthetic insulin to diabetes patients; and if he will make a statement. [181187]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has received a number of representations about the continued availability of animal insulins. Both animal and synthetic insulins continue to be available for prescription. All decisions about appropriate treatment regimes for people with diabetes should be made between the individual concerned and their healthcare advisers.

East Lancashire Healthcare Trust

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Chief Executive of the East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust to return to normal duties. [180194]

Miss Melanie Johnson: This is an employment issue for the Chairman and the board of the East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust. As such it would not be appropriate to comment.

Employment Costs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of NHS expenditure was spent on employment costs in each of the last three years. [181067]

Mr. Hutton: The proportion of total national health service expenditure spent on hospital and community health service (HCHS) expenditure employment costs is shown in the table.

	Percentage spent on HCHS salaries and pay
2000–01	46
2001–02	47
2002–03	48

Expenditure figures for 2003–04 have not yet been collected.

It is not possible to give family health service employment costs because of the way they are funded.

Fall/Osteoporosis Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what sanctions will be imposed on those primary care trusts that fail to deliver properly structured falls and osteoporosis services; [181435]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the progress of integration of falls and osteoporosis services in each primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [181436]

Dr. Ladyman: The national service framework for older people (NSF) requires integrated falls services to be in place locally by April 2005. This should include appropriate links to osteoporosis. The Department will be monitoring formally the 2005 milestone at strategic health authority (SHA) level as this is included as one of the key targets in Improvement, Expansion and Reform, the priorities and planning framework for 2003–06. All SHAs currently report that the April 2005 target will be achieved in their area. Over the coming year, the Healthcare Commission will be undertaking a detailed review of delivery of the NSF and older people's services, including integrated falls services. This will indicate if any further support or actions are necessary.

Fenland Primary Care Trust

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what annual financial resources were calculated according to his formula for and paid to the Fenland Primary Care Trust *(a)* in the years before amalgamation with the East Cambridgeshire Trust and *(b)* since the amalgamation. [181305]

Dr. Ladyman: For 2003–06 allocations as determined by the weighted capitation formula have been made to East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Primary Care Trust (PCT). Prior to this allocations were made to health authorities.

For 2003–06 East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT received the following:

	£000
2003–2004	117,133
2004–2005	128,632
2005–2006	140,862

Health Services (Derby, North)

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been to the NHS waiting list in Derby, North in the last seven years. [181163]

Dr. Ladyman: The earliest available data shows that the total national health service waiting list for elective admissions at NHS trusts covering the Derby North area has fallen from 13,560 in March 1998 to 7,544 in April 2004.

Health Visitors

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many homeless families in temporary accommodation with one or more children aged 0 to 5 were visited by a health visitor within one week of moving in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [181208]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available centrally. It is for local authorities, primary care trusts and their partners to agree the outcomes they should work towards based on local priorities and circumstances, and how performance might be measured.

Infant Mortality

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reducing inequalities in infant mortality. [180275]

Dr. Ladyman: We are committed to reducing, by 2010, the gap in infant mortality between routine and manual groups (as defined in National Statistics socio-economic classification) and the population as a whole, by at least 10 per cent. To date, overall infant mortality has decreased across all groups since the baseline (1997–99). We are continuing to work to reduce the higher rates of infant mortality in disadvantaged areas and groups through the Government's health inequalities strategy, "Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action" (2003), and initiatives such as Sure Start. The programme for action identifies supporting mothers, families and children as one of four priority themes to lay the foundations for meeting the 2010 target.

Mental Health

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were recorded as having mental health problems in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire in the last year for which figures are available; and what help is provided by (i) the NHS, (ii) primary care trusts, (iii) health agencies, (iv) social services and (v) others. [180432]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The table shows numbers of finished consultant episodes for patients from primary care trusts (PCTs) in the Lancashire area, where the main specialty of care was psychiatric.

The Lancashire Care national health service Trust provides mental health care in the area. Information is not collected centrally on the services provided by primary care trusts, local authorities and other bodies.

A wide range of care and treatment is available in primary care, hospitals and in a variety of community-based settings across England for people with mental health problems which are jointly delivered by health and social services. The available provision ranges from the treatment of common mental health problems in primary care to specialised services for severe conditions including a variety of forensic interventions and care in secure settings. Service standards that adult users can expect from mental health services are set out in the "National Service Framework for Mental Health" (1999), a copy of which is available in the Library.

Voluntary and community sector organisations also play a major role in mental health service provision by providing a range of services including residential care, supported housing and information about maintaining good mental health.

Finished consultant episodes for patients treated by consultants with psychiatric main specialty in Lancashire PCTs, 2002–03—NHS hospitals, England

PCT of responsibility	*Total episodes*
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	623
Blackpool PCT	722
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT	1,020
Chorley and South Ribble PCT	638
Fylde PCT	228
Hyndburn And Ribble Valley PCT	397
Morecambe Bay PCT	1,419
West Lancashire PCT	425
Wyre PCT	416

Notes:
1. A finished consultant episode is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Specialty—care is needed when analysing hospital episode statistics data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information. This analysis is based on episodes in which the main specialty of the consultant was one of the following: mental illness, child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, psychotherapy, old age psychiatry.
3. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data is ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital episode statistics, Department of Health.

Methadone

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients have been prescribed methadone in each of the last five years for which records are available; what quantity of methadone has been prescribed; and what the cost to the NHS of methadone was in each year. [181051]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Information on the number of National Health Service patients prescribed methadone is not available centrally.

The tables show the number of prescription items and net ingredient cost of all methadone drugs dispensed in the community in England, 1999 to 2003.

Number of prescription items (thousands)

BNF Classification	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
BNF 3.9.1 Cough Suppressants in terminal illness	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.3
BNF 4.7.2 Opioid analgesics	141.4	123.3	106.6	96.2	91.5
BNF Drugs used in substance dependence	1,081.7	1,144.4	1,209.7	1,330.7	1,521.5
Total	1,225.3	1,269.7	1,318.1	1,428.4	1,614.2

Net ingredient cost

£ thousands

BNF Classification	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
BNF 3.9.1 Cough Suppressants	6.4	6.0	5.3	4.9	4.2
BNF 4.7.2 Opioid analgesics	3,127.9	2,705.3	2,417.5	2,156.4	2,120.6
BNF 4.10.0 Drugs used in substance dependence	7,360.1	7,765.2	8,375.2	9,565.9	11,639.4
Total	10,494.4	10,476.4	10,798.0	11,727.2	13,764.3

Source:
Prescription cost analysis (PCA) data from the Prescription Pricing Authority

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the value of using methadone as a treatment for heroin addiction; and if he will make a statement. [181053]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The National Treatment Agency (NTA) monitors and evaluates research on substance misuse. The research base for methadone as an effective treatment is summarised in the document, "Pharmacological Treatment for Drug Misusers: Review of the Evidence Base", published on the NTA website at: www.nta.nhs.uk

MRSA

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether every hospital has appointed a director of infection control. [177989]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The director of infection prevention and control is not a new post, but an extra responsibility for senior health professionals within every organisation providing national health services.

Information on heads of infection control teams is not collected centrally.

National IT Programme

Mr. Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effects on numbers of *(a)* managerial and *(b)* clerical and administrative staff resulting from the full implementation of the National Programme for Information Technology. [177492]

Mr. Hutton: The National Programme for Information Technology (NpfIT) is focused on transforming patient care within the national health service. The NPfIT will use world-leading technology solutions to enable NHS staff to treat and interact with patients more effectively and efficiently than ever before. There will also be managerial and administrative benefits, as clinicians, but also other staff, are freed from having to search for missing or incomplete medical information; waiting while records, X-rays, and prescription information are transferred by post; and dealing with missed appointments. However, the NpfIT is not expected to lead to a significant change in the overall numbers of staff. Rather, we expect staff to be able to concentrate on other areas of activity and allow hands-on staff more direct contact with patients.

It is still too soon in the NPfIT life cycle to quantify benefits tin any significant level of detail. However, benefits realisation planning is an integral element of implementation at every stage for each key element of the NpfIT. Benefits will be managed and realised as close as possible to where services are delivered to ensure local ownership of the process.

Obesity

Mr. Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money his Department has given to charities who offer support and provide information regarding obesity *(a)* under section 64 grants and *(b)* through other funding mechanisms in each year since 2001. [178120]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Under the section 64 grant scheme, £156,000 was given to charities since 2001 for work directly related to offering support and information regarding obesity. Activities to tackle obesity are undertaken under several related projects such as men's health and the British Dietetic Association. Other Department support is from central resources for cardiovascular disease and cancer prevention overall, which are not allocated to specific programmes.

Local nutrition and activity initiatives are funded through health action zones, sure start, healthy living centres and through general funding allocations to health authorities and primary care trusts, on which information is not collected centrally.

Primary Care Trusts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent per head of population on health services in each primary care trust in the eastern area. [181065]

Dr. Ladyman: The table shows the expenditure data for 2002–03, which is the latest year for which primary care information is available.

The figures are given for expenditure by each primary care trust (PCT) in the eastern area. This is taken as being the east of England government office region and incorporates all PCTs within the three strategic health authority (SHA) areas:

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA

Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA

Essex SHA.

Expenditure per weighted head by PCTs in the east of England government office region 2002–03

PCT	*£ per head*
Basildon	819.04
Bedford	923.96
Bedfordshire Heartlands	907.97
Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford	1,002.20
Broadland	966.75
Cambridge City	1,127.76
Castle Point and Rochford	863.14
Central Suffolk PCT	944.08
Chelmsford	980.28
Colchester	941.83
Dacorum	955.15
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland	923.33
Epping Forest	1,002.31
Great Yarmouth	868.69
Harlow	980.09
Hertsmere	996.67
Huntingdonshire	1,042.53
Ipswich	926.79
Luton	858.76
Maldon and South Chelmsford	942.11
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage	928.79
North Norfolk	928.24
North Peterborough	923.90
Norwich	1,163.20
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford	999.22
South Cambridgeshire	1,200.52
South East Hertfordshire	853.08
South Peterborough	930.31
Southend-on-Sea	947.62
Southern Norfolk	955.12
St. Albans and Harpenden	1,037.10
Suffolk, Coastal	936.45
Suffolk, West	938.68
Tendring	804.43
Thurrock	905.89
Uttlesford	1,088.24
Watford and Three Rivers	1,031.25
Waveney	868.10
Welwyn Hatfield	950.45
West Norfolk	876.92

Notes:
1. PCT expenditure is the gross revenue expenditure of the PCT, less income received from other PCTs for the provision of services to those PCTs in respect of their own populations.
2. The table excludes the cost of health care commissioned by health authorities and SHAs in 2002–03.
3. The majority of general dental services expenditure is not included in the PCT summarisation schedules and is separately accounted for by the Dental Practice Board. An element of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the Prescription Pricing Authority and not by PCTs.

Sources:
Audited summarisation schedules of the above PCTs 2002–03.
Weighted population figures.

Screening Programmes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to date is of the pilots and roll out of *(a)* the chlamydia screening programme and *(b)* the bowel cancer screening programme; [178879]

(2) how much his Department spent in the last financial year on researching and developing screening programmes for the NHS; and what the total amount of underspends was; [178880]

(3) what the budget of the National Screening Committee was in each of the last three years. [178881]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The United Kingdom national screening committee (NSC) advises the Government on all aspects of screening policy. It does not have a specific budget for the development of screening programmes. Decisions about screening programmes are made by the four UK countries after the NSC has given its advice. Last financial year, the Department spent a total of £17 million on developing various antenatal, child health and adult screening programmes in the national health service. Allocated funds were fully utilised. The Department also funds the NHS research and development programme, which aims to identify NHS needs for research and to commission research to meet those needs. A list of relevant projects and their costs is shown in the table.

The total cost of the chlamydia screening pilot was £1.2 million. The total cost of the roll-out of the first two phases of the chlamydia screening programme is £13.5 million.

The cost of the English arm of the colorectal cancer screening pilot is £4.75 million. The roll-out of this programme has not yet started.

Title	*Start date*	*End date*	*Spend for 2003–04 (£)*
A study to evaluate the most cost effective way to screen for chlamydia trachomatis genital tract infection, and reduce its prevalence and associated burden of disease	1 August 2000	31 October 2004	205,544
A randomised trial of human papilloma virus testing in primary cervical screening	1 June 2001	31 August 2007	181,752
Interventions for mild to moderate permanent childhood hearing impairments identified by neonatal hearing screening	1 April 2001	30 June 2007	147,794
Amniocentesis results: investigation of anxiety	1 September 2001	31 August 2004	63,565
Methods of prediction and prevention of pre-eclampsia—systematic reviews of accuracy and effectiveness literature with economic modelling	1 January 2004	31 December 2005	18,780
Computed tomography, colonography, colonoscopy or barium enema for diagnosis of colorectal cancer in older symptomatic patients	1 February 2004	31 July 2007	79,824

Smoking

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it cost the national health service to treat patients suffering from smoking-related illnesses in the last year for which figures are available. [180257]

Miss Melanie Johnson: In 1997, the then Health Education Authority estimated that treating illness and disease caused by smoking costs the national health service up to £1.7 billion every year in terms of general practitioner visits, prescriptions, treatment and operations.

Source of reference:

Buck D, Godfrey C, Parrott S, Raw M, University of York Centre for Health Economics. "Cost effectiveness of smoking cessation interventions". London: Health Education Authority, 1997.

Smoking Cessation Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to replace the four-week follow-up for smoking cessation services with the longer term review of success rates recommended by the Wanless report. [180277]

Miss Melanie Johnson: We have no plans to replace the four-week follow-up, which provides a practical way for national health service stop-smoking services to establish whether smokers who have set a quit date have been successful in stopping in the early stages, and enables predictions of longer-term quit rates.

We will be responding fully to the Wanless report in the context of the White Paper on public health, which will include our plans for the future of NHS interventions to help smokers to stop.

Synthetic Insulin

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned from drug companies into the *(a)* safety and *(b)* suitability of synthetic insulin; and if he will make a statement. [180628]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All authorised insulins, whether synthetic insulin or animal insulin, have been demonstrated to be efficacious and safe for treatment of people with diabetes mellitus. As part of the licensing approval process for any medicinal product, including insulins, the applicant has to provide evidence that the product meets appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy. This will include clinical trial data in patients with diabetes. The decision to use one or other of the insulins rests with the physician in consultation with the patient.

The regulatory authority, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, does not commission research.

Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C Action Plans

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* received and *(c)* plans to publish (i) the Tuberculosis Action Plan and (ii) the Hepatitis C Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [180406]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Action plans for tuberculosis and hepatitis C have been developed in the light of the Chief Medical Officer's infectious disease strategy, "Getting Ahead of the Curve". The Hepatitis C action plan for England implements our consultation document, "Hepatitis C Strategy for England" and was published on 29 June 2004. Copies are available in the Library. It is our intention to publish the tuberculosis action plan when departmental business allows. In the meantime, progress has continued, with a number of actions being taken forward.

Prosthetic Arms

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated cost of a full-length active prosthetic arm is within the NHS; [179077]

(2) if he will make a statement on NHS procedures for fitting individuals without arms with active prosthetic arms; [179078]

(3) if he will make a statement on NHS multidisciplinary teams trained to work with multiple limb disability; [179094]

(4) what active upper limb prosthetics are available through the NHS; and how many users there are. [179097]

Dr. Ladyman: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of prosthetic services and multidisciplinary teams to work with multiple limb disability.

Patients are encouraged to discuss the prosthetic limb prescription with the prosthetist and the wider healthcare team concerned. Multidisciplinary assessment focuses on the needs of individual patients and enables patients to actively contribute to the decision making process.

The national health service has available to it, via contracts negotiated by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, virtually everything that is available on the international market

The table shows the three general types of full-length active prosthetic arms available within the NHS.

Type	*Total cost—components only (£)*
Upper extremity prosthesis—full arm—mechanical hand	1,250.00 to 1,500.00
Upper extremity prosthesis—full arm—electric hand	3,600.00 to 4,000.00
Upper extremity prosthesis—full arm—electric hand, wrist and digital elbow system	18,000.00 to 25,000.00

We do not hold figures centrally for the number of users.

DEFENCE

Advertising Costs

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the cost to his Department of advertising in each year since 1997. [181765]

Mr. Caplin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 13 January 2004, *Official Report*, columns 679–80 to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth). Figures for financial year 2003–04 are not yet available.

Cadet Forces

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the budget available to each cadet force in each of the last 10 years. [160980]

Mr. Caplin: The budget/expenditures for each of the cadet forces are as follows:

1. Air Cadet Force (including CCF)

	£ million
1991–92	16
1992–93	18
1993–94	19
1994–95	20
1995–96	21
1996–97	19
1997–98	18
1998–99	19
1999–2000	18
2000–01	19
2001–02	20
2002–03	22
2003–04	21

2. Cadets affiliated to the Royal Navy/Royal Marines[1]

Budget records (£000)

	(SCC) Sea Cadet Corps	*(CCF) Comb. Cadet Force*	*(VCC) Volunteer Cadet Corps*	*(SSA) Sea Scouts Assoc.*
1999–2000	6,448	1,518	12	110
2000–01	6,942	1,631	n/a	n/a
2001–02	7,879	1,711	11	94
2002–03	7,852	1,681	11	102
2003–04	7,996	1,746	21	178

[1] Previous records no longer held

The budget for financial year 2004–05 is likely to exceed the 2003–04 budget, but has not yet been finalised.

3. Cadets affiliated to the Army

Historical figures for ACF/CCF are difficult to provide.

The annual ACF expenditure for 2002–03 was £50 million

The annual CCF (Army) expenditure for 2002–03 was £10 million.

Civilian Internees (Compensation)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British passport-holders have been excluded from the compensation scheme for civilian internees of the Japanese; and for what reasons. [177802]

Mr. Caplin: Holding a British passport, either at the time of internment or now, has never been a criterion for eligibility under the Ex Gratia Payment Scheme and as this information has not therefore been sought from claimants, it is not possible to say how many British passport holders who were civilian internees are not eligible for the scheme.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why the eligibility for compensation for civilian detainees of the Japanese was changed between the Prime Minister's account of the scheme and the Department's amplification of its terms; and how many applications had been received by the second date. [177803]

Mr. Caplin: There was no change to the intended scope of the ex gratia payment scheme in relation to civilian internees after the announcement of the scheme on 7 November 2000 but an eligibility criterion was clarified. Letters began to be sent to those claimants who did not meet this criterion in late June 2001. By the end of June 2001, 3,195 claims had been received from former civilian internees. A number of claims had also been received from surviving spouses of former civilian internees who had died, but the figures available for claims from surviving spouses cover the spouses of all eligible groups and not just civilian internees and it is therefore not possible to isolate the requested information.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who carried out the research on the basis of which people were excluded from the compensation scheme for civilian internees of the Japanese; [177807]

(2) what consultations he has had with *(a)* representatives of civilian detainees and *(b)* the Army Historical Branch about the status of British passport-holders who were excluded from the ex gratia compensation scheme for civilian internees of the Japanese. [177801]

Mr. Caplin: Research in relation to the ex gratia payment scheme for those held captive by the Japanese was undertaken in a number of departments represented on the inter-departmental working group chaired by the Cabinet Office. The Army Historical Branch contributed to this research, but in relation to civilian internees, the work was primarily undertaken by the then War Pensions Agency (now the Veterans Agency), the DSS and the FCO. Responsibility for discussions with representatives of the former civilian internees also rested with the War Pensions Agency and the DSS. Since the end of the legal proceedings brought by representatives of the former civilian internees, the Ministry of Defence, now responsible for the Veterans Agency, has of course remained willing to discuss issues not already resolved by the courts.

Commonwealth Personnel

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel are from the Commonwealth in the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army. [180057]

Mr. Caplin: There are currently 375 Naval Service personnel and 5,485 Army personnel with a nationality of a Commonwealth country (excluding United Kingdom) shown on their record of service.

I am unable to provide reliable figures for the RAF due to inconsistencies within the nationality fields on the records of service.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force personnel worked on Diego Garcia in each of the last five years. [180692]

Mr. Ingram: No RAF personnel have worked on Diego Garcia in the last five years. There are currently 38 Royal Navy personnel, as there were last year, and there were 40 Royal Navy personnel from 2000–02.

Iraq

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what action coalition authorities are taking to compensate victims of mistreatment at the hands of UK or US forces; and if he will make a statement. [177618]

Mr. Ingram: Claims made by Iraqis for losses that do not arise in connection with combat operations are handled in accordance with the direction of the Coalition Provisional Authority—specifically Section 18 of CPA order number 17.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Geneva conventions will apply in full to all foreign forces in Iraq after 30 June; and if he will make a statement. [178225]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 16 June 2004]:* The first, second and third Geneva conventions apply only during times of armed conflict. As at 28 June there is no ongoing armed conflict in Iraq so those conventions will have no application unless and until this situation changes. The fourth Geneva convention applies during an armed conflict or a belligerent occupation. Since the occupation of Iraq ceased with the handover of authority to the Iraqi Interim Government on 28 June, that convention has no further application. The conduct of British forces in Iraq after 28 June is governed by domestic Iraqi law (including CPA regulations, orders and memoranda carried forward in accordance with article 26*(c)* of the Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period and CPA Order No. 100); by the terms of the UN Resolutions setting out its mandate and by English criminal law which applies to the Her Majesty's Armed Forces wherever they are in the world.

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the arrangements are regarding charges for post and parcels sent by relatives in Northern Ireland to serving soldiers on active duty in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [170431]

Mr. Ingram: Relatives of servicemen and women serving in Iraq who live in Northern Ireland enjoy the same mail service as the rest of the United Kingdom.

Through civilian post offices relatives can despatch letters and packets up to a maximum of 2kg at a concessionary rate. This concession is equivalent to the UK inland letter rate. As an example it would cost £6.89 to send a 2kg packet to Iraq.

In addition to this concessionary service, relatives can also send, free of charge, the forces free air letter, more popularly known as the "bluey". Blueys are obtainable free of charge from civilian post offices. In addition, those with access to the internet can send an electronic bluey, the e-bluey, which is also free. This is the system pioneered by the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) whereby an e-mail is converted to a physical letter in Iraq, and delivered to the serviceman or woman in his unit.

For logistic and operational reasons there is no mail service for items weighing more than 2kg.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1446W on Iraq, what the origin was of the foreign technology and technical assistance critical to the progress of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. [181399]

Mr. Hoon: I have already confirmed that Iraq was holding discussions with North Korea, and Her Majesty's Government 2002 dossier on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction mentions an Indian chemical engineering company.

I am withholding further information under exemption 1 (Defence, Security and International Relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Royal Anglian Regiment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future form of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment. [181768]

Mr. Ingram: I have no plans to change the form of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

UN Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes he plans to make to the command structure of British forces serving in Iraq after the handover of power on 30 June 2004. [169382]

Mr. Hoon: The command structure remains the same: the British General Officer Commanding in Multinational Division South East reports to the United States Multinational Force Commander in Baghdad. However, his forces remain under United Kingdom command at all times and are ultimately answerable to the Government.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time taken by his Department to assess claimants for attendance allowance in the last year for which figures are available. [181054]

Maria Eagle: Information on the Actual Average Clearance Time (AACT) for a claim to Attendance Allowance (AA) for the year ending April 2004, together with a comparison with the figures for the year ending April 2003, is set out in the following tables.

days

AA	AACT for year ended April 2004	Target
Normal rules	20.8	26
Special rules	4.9	8

days

AA	AACT for year ended April 2003	Target
Normal rules	24.2	27
Special rules	5.6	8

Notes:
Information on the maximum time taken to clear cases is not available.
All figures are in days.
Source:
National MIP, New PIEXT listings.

Benefit Payments

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals, *(b)* men and *(c)* women have claimed (i) housing benefit, (ii) disability living allowance, (iii) income support and (iv) council tax benefit in (A) Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, (B) the Scottish Borders region and (C) Scotland in each year since 1997, or the introduction of the benefit, whichever is the most recent. [180957]

Mr. Pond: The available information is in the tables.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients in the areas shown as at February each year

Thousand

	Scotland		Scottish Borders Council	
February	Housing benefit	Council tax benefit	Housing benefit	Council tax benefit
1997	537.4	579.1	7.8	9.0
1998	529.6	596.3	8.0	9.3
1999	518.1	597.1	7.6	8.7
2000	486.6	568.1	7.2	8.3
2001	466.9	537.4	7.0	8.1
2002	453.0	530.3	7.1	8.3
2003	447.0	526.4	7.0	8.3
2004	438.2	528.2	6.8	8.4

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and expressed in thousands.
3. Housing benefit and council tax benefit data is not available at parliamentary constituency level, and a gender split is not collected.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Housing benefit totals exclude extended payments cases.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count.

Disability living allowance recipients in the areas shown as at February each year

Thousand

	Scotland			Scottish Borders Council			Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale parliamentary constituency		
February	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
1997	208.7	102.7	106.0	2.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.6	0.7
1998	222.6	109.5	113.2	2.4	1.2	1.3	1.5	0.7	0.8
1999	229.0	112.6	116.4	2.6	1.4	1.3	1.6	0.8	0.7
2000	235.0	115.5	119.5	2.9	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.9	0.9
2001	246.2	121.2	124.9	3.3	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.0	0.9
2002	258.6	126.4	132.2	3.6	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.1	0.9
2003	273.8	133.3	140.5	3.9	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.1	1.2
2004	285.9	139.6	146.3	4.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	1.1	1.2

Income support recipients in the areas shown as at February each year

Thousand

	Scotland			Scottish Borders Council			Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale parliamentary constituency		
February	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
1997	406.1	132.5	273.6	5.1	1.4	3.7	2.7	0.7	2.0
1998	407.7	136.9	270.8	5.4	1.5	3.9	2.8	0.8	2.0
1999	401.2	135.0	266.2	5.3	1.4	3.8	2.7	0.9	1.8
2000	395.8	134.4	261.4	5.4	1.5	3.9	2.9	0.9	1.9
2001	412.4	142.4	270.0	5.8	1.9	3.8	2.8	1.1	1.7
2002	418.0	147.7	270.3	6.3	2.3	4.1	3.1	1.3	1.8
2003	426.4	154.0	272.4	6.2	2.2	4.0	3.1	1.1	2.0
2004	239.4	94.0	145.3	2.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	*0.5	0.7

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. The gender refers to the claimant only.
4. Disability living allowance and income support data are based on a 5 per cent. sample subject to a degree of sampling variation.
5. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant Office for National Statistics (ONS) postcode directory.
6. Numbers marked "*" are based on very few sample cases. They are subject to a high degree of sampling variation and should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
7. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory and are based on May 1997 boundaries.
8. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
9. From October 2003, pension credit replaced income support for pensioners.
Source: IAD Information Centre, 5 per cent. sample

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of housing benefit in Scotland, broken down by local authority. [181259]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the table.

Housing benefit recipients in Scotland as at February 2004

Thousand

Local authority	*Housing benefit claimants*
Scotland	438.2
Aberdeen	15.5
Aberdeenshire	9.7
Angus	7.1
Argyll and Bute	5.9
Clackmannanshire	4.5
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	1.3
Dumfries and Galloway	10.1
Dundee	18.2
East Ayrshire	12.0
East Dunbartonshire	3.8
East Lothian	5.9
East Renfrewshire	3.4
Edinburgh	27.6
Falkirk	12.7
Fife	27.9
Glasgow	97.7
Highland	13.1
Inverclyde	9.2
Midlothian	5.1
Moray	4.5
North Ayrshire	13.6
North Lanarkshire	32.3
Orkney	0.8
Perth and Kinross	7.2
Renfrewshire	15.9
Scottish Borders	6.8
Shetland	0.9
South Ayrshire	8.6
South Lanarkshire	26.6
Stirling	5.3
West Dunbartonshire	11.8
West Lothian	12.9

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and expressed in thousands.
3. Housing benefit totals exclude extended payments cases.
4. Figures for any non-responding local authorities have been estimated.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 2004.

Carer's Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many carers are estimated to be eligible for the carer's allowance; and how many carers are claiming carer's allowance. [181102]

Maria Eagle: Carer's Allowance provides income maintenance for people who provide regular and substantial care for a severely disabled person receiving Attendance Allowance, or the equivalent rates of the Disability Living Allowance care component, or an equivalent benefit paid under the War Disablement Pensions scheme or the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits scheme. Entitlement to carer's allowance can only be established reliably after a claim has been made. There is no data available on the number of carers who might be entitled to the allowance if they were to make a claim. This means that there is no reliable way of calculating the number of people who have claimed and been found to be entitled to the allowance as a proportion of the eligible population.

At 28 February 2004, the latest date for which figures are available, some 422,000 people were receiving carer's allowance. A further 198,000 people had claimed and established entitlement, but were not being paid the allowance because they were receiving another social security income maintenance benefit.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:
IAD Information centre.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many parents have faced criminal sanctions under the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 because they have *(a)* failed to provide the Child Support Agency with required information and *(b)* provided false information; [177530]

(2) how many people have been prosecuted for making a false statement in the Child Support Agency in respect of their income in each of the last seven years. [177536]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mike Isaac to Mr. David Willetts:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents have faced criminal sanctions under the Child Support Pensions and Social Security Act 2000 because they have *(a)* failed to provide the Child Support Agency with required information and *(b)* provided false information.

You also asked how many people have been prosecuted for making a false statement in the Child Support Agency in respect of their income in each of the last seven years.

Criminal sanctions were introduced from 31 January 2001 to deal with offences relating to information. The first prosecutions were in 2002:

> In 2002 there were 16 in total—6 for failing to provide information; 9 for making false statements in respect of income; and one for making a false statement in respect of rent.
>
> In 2003 there were 234 in total—228 for failing to provide information; 5 for making false statements in respect of income; and one for making a false statement in respect of rent.
>
> So far this year there have been 69 prosecutions for failure to provide information.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases which have been moved from the old to the new system have been followed up with a new complaint. [181738]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. Frank Field, dated 1 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases which have been moved from the old to the new system have been followed up with a new complaint.

I am afraid that this information is not available. I can, however, say that in the year to 31 March 2004 the records for around 326,000 cases moved from the old to the new computer system.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been attributed to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency systems. [181739]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. Frank Field, dated 1 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been attributed to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency systems.

In the year to 31 March 2004 we received 49,215 complaints either in writing or by telephone. Of this total 33,876 related to clients we handled in accordance with the "old scheme" and 15,339 to clients being handled in accordance with the new legislation.

Easy to Read Publications

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to increase the number of books, magazines and newspapers available in large print, audio, Braille and electronic formats accessible to people with a visual impairment, dyslexia or other reading disability; and if he will make a statement. [176681]

Ms Hewitt: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr. Heath) on 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 44W.

Household Income

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of families containing one or more children have incomes below 60 per cent. of median contemporary incomes *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs. [181115]

Mr. Pond: The information requested is in the table.

Percentage of families below 60 per cent. of median income

	Percentage
Before housing costs	18
After housing costs	26

Notes:

1. Figures are for 2002–03 the latest date for which data are available.
2. Estimates are for Great Britain and are quoted to the nearest per cent.
3. Estimates relate to the household's status at the time they were interviewed for the FRS.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts, which have been adjusted for non-response using multipurpose grossing factors that, in the case of the Family Resources Survey, control for tenure, council tax band and a number of other variables. Estimates are subject to both sampling error and to remaining variability in non-response.
5. The income measure used is weekly net (disposable) equivalised household income (that is to say income that is adjusted to reflect the composition of the household), both before and after housing costs have been deducted.

Source:

Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Incapacity Benefit Claimants

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the profile is of claimants who *(a)* have had their incapacity benefit withdrawn and *(b)* have had a 20 per cent. reduction imposed upon them in the last three years. [180255]

Maria Eagle: A breakdown of information by age, gender and medical condition, is available for those claimants who have had their incapacity benefit withdrawn as a result of failing either the personal capability assessment or own occupation test. The available information is in the tables.

There are less than 10,000 personal capability assessments appellants who move onto reduced income support each year, therefore data limitations make detailed profiling unreliable.

Men failing the personal capability assessment or own occupation test, broken down by age

Men, age	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02
Under 20	—	—	—
20–24	9,000	8,000	9,000
25–29	9,000	9,000	7,000
30–34	11,000	9,000	9,000
35–39	10,000	9,000	11,000
40–44	10,000	7,000	10,000
45–49	10,000	6,000	10,000
50–54	12,000	7,000	8,000
55–59	8,000	8,000	8,000
60–64	6,000	5,000	7,000
All	87,000	70,000	81,000

Women failing the personal capability assessment or own occupation test, broken down by age

Women, age	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
Under 20	4,000	—	—
20–24	6,000	5,000	5,000
25–29	6,000	6,000	5,000
30–34	7,000	4,000	7,000
35–39	7,000	4,000	7,000
40–44	6,000	5,000	6,000
45–49	9,000	5,000	6,000
50–54	7,000	4,000	7,000
55–59	4,000	5,000	7,000
All	56,000	40,000	50,000

Claimants failing the personal capability assessment or own occupation test, broken down by medical condition

	1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*
Mental disorder	43,000	32,000	42,000
Nervous system	14,000	11,000	13,000
Circulatory or respiratory system	13,000	9,000	11,000
Musculo-skeletal	29,000	20,000	24,000
Injury	20,000	16,000	18,000
Others	25,000	22,000	23,000
All	143,000	110,000	131,000

Notes:

1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 and figures fewer than 3,000 are not included. For these reasons totals and sub group totals do not always tally; figures should be seen as an approximation.

2. Figures refer to incapacity benefit, incapacity benefit credits and severe disablement allowance.

3. Incapacity for work is determined by two medical tests: the own occupation test, which applies for the first 28 weeks of sickness for those with a recent work record; and the personal capability assessment, which applies after 28 weeks of sickness.

4. Figures refer only to a failure of the personal capability assessment or the own occupation test; incapacity benefit may be withdrawn for other reasons.

5. Differences in the levels of withdrawal for those with some characteristics or conditions are likely to be the result of different levels stocks and inflows for the different characteristics and conditions.

Source:

DWP administrative data—incapacity benefit annual dataset (1 per cent.)

Jobcentre/Jobcentre Plus

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are employed *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in each region in Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus. [181382]

Jane Kennedy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, David Anderson. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from David Anderson to Mr. George Osborne, dated 1 July 2004:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning how many people are employed *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in Jobcentre and Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

On the 31 May 2004 Jobcentre Plus, nationally, employed 78,664 Whole Time Equivalent staff. A breakdown by Region is in the table below. National Tier (Head Office) staff, and those working in our Contact Centres, are counted within the Government Office Region in which they work.

Jobcentre Plus	*Total Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) 31 May 2004*
East Midlands	4,582
East of England	4,966
London	9,887
North East	5,015
North West	12,166
Scotland	9,480
South East	6,969
South West	4,900
Wales	5,034
West Midlands	6,759
Yorkshire and Humberside	8,906
Jobcentre Plus Total	78,664

I hope this is helpful.

New Deal for Lone Parents

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in the Tamworth constituency have benefited from *(a)* the New Deal for Lone Parents and *(b)* the New Deal for Partners since 1997. [179955]

Jane Kennedy: 670 women have started New Deal for Lone Parents in the Tamworth constituency since the beginning of the programme in October 1998, of whom, 440 have gained a job. Information on the number of women who have benefited from the New Deal for Partners is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Training Programmes

John Mann: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what training programmes have taken place for staff in his Department in *(a)* substance misuse and *(b)* drugs treatment in the last 12 months. [180165]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no specific training programmes in these areas in the last 12 months.

As part of their induction programme, all new staff in the Department are made aware of the availability of welfare services. There is a speaker from the welfare service on the induction course. Welfare service holds a variety of information leaflets on substance misuse and these are handed out on request.

In addition all new managers in the Department are required to attend three mandatory training programmes—Performance Management for New Managers, Leading a Team and Employment Law for New Managers. As part of these programmes managers are made aware of the Department's policies and procedures in relation to a range of potential disciplinary issues including drug and alcohol misuse. There is a speaker from Welfare service on the Leading a Team programme who outlines the support available to individuals and line managers.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

EU Constitution

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list those areas of Government activity which will remain wholly and exclusively the responsibility of the British Government if the European constitution is ratified by the UK. [181226]

Mr. MacShane: Under the Constitutional Treaty for the EU, the Union would have exclusive competence in the areas of: monetary policy for member states which have adopted the euro; common commercial policy; customs union; the conservation of marine biological resources under the common fisheries policy; the establishing of the competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market; and for the conclusion of an international agreement when its conclusion is provided for in a legislative act of the Union or is necessary to enable the Union to exercise its internal competence or insofar as its conclusion may affect common rules or alter their scope. In these areas, the UK would only be able to legislate and adopt legally binding acts if empowered to do so by the Union or for the implementation of Union acts.

Member states and the EU would share competence in the following principal areas: the internal market; the area of freedom security and justice; agriculture and fisheries, excluding the conservation of marine biological resources; transport and trans-European networks; energy; social policy, for aspects defined in Part III of the Constitutional Treaty; economic, social and territorial cohesion; environment; consumer protection; and common safety concerns in public health matters, for aspects defined in Part III of the Constitutional Treaty. In these areas, the UK would be able to exercise its competence to the extent that the Union has not exercised, or has decided to cease exercising, its competence.

In the areas of research, technological development and space, the EU would have competence to carry out actions, in particular to define and implement programmes, and in the areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid the EU would have competence to take action and conduct a common policy. In none of those areas however would the exercise of that competence result in the UK being prevented from exercising its competence.

There are also areas which would be the competence of the member states, but where the Union would be able to take supporting, co-ordinating or complementary action. These are: protection and improvement of human health; industry; culture; education, youth, sport and vocational training; civil protection; administrative cooperation; and tourism.

Special provisions would apply to the coordination of economic and employment policies and the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as detailed in Part III of the Constitutional Treaty.

Other areas of government activity would remain wholly and exclusively the responsibility of the British Government.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) where the wording for the new EU constitution will be made available; [181299]

(2) where the wording for the European Constitution can be found; and if he will make it available *(a)* on the internet and *(b)* in every public library. [181456]

Mr. MacShane: CIG 86/04—a provisional consolidated version of the draft Constitutional Treaty—is available on the Britain and the EU section of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website www.europe.gov.uk. I have also placed copies in the Library of the House. This draft text will now be consolidated into a single document and drawn up in all the authentic EU languages. These will be scrutinised by specialist lawyer linguists to ensure that there are no discrepancies between the different language versions without making any substantive changes to the text adopted at the IGC. This is detailed technical work which is likely to take up to four months to complete. Once this process is complete and it has been signed by Heads of State or Government I will make the official Treaty available on the internet and place copies in the Library of the House.

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the URL is for the site where the European Constitution Treaty may be accessed; and where printed copies of the treaty will be made available to members of the United Kingdom public. [181390]

Mr. MacShane: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Leominster (Mr. Wiggin) today (UIN 181299).

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role *(a)* UK courts and *(b)* European courts will play in the UK in interpretation of the wording of the European Constitution; and where supremacy will lie. [181481]

Mr. MacShane: As now, under the new Treaty, the Court of Justice will ensure respect for the law in the interpretation and application of the Constitution in cases that fall within its jurisdiction. Similarly, as now, national courts will apply the Treaty as interpreted by the Court of Justice.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will set out the contents of the articles of the EU Constitution on *(a)* energy and *(b)* public health. [181130]

Mr. MacShane: I refer the hon. Member to Presidency document CIG 86/04 Chapter III Section 10 page 185 for energy, and Chapter V Section 1 page 204 for public health. This document—a Provisional consolidated version of the draft Treaty—can be accessed at: www.europe.gov.uk and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan

Mr Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what access the International Committee of the Red Cross has to prisoners detained in Afghanistan; and how many International Committee of the Red Cross reports on them have been filed to date; [181557]

(2) whether concerns have been raised by the International Committee of the Red Cross with regard to prisoners detained in Afghanistan. [181559]

Mr. Straw: The UK does not have any prison or detention facilities in Afghanistan and, since ICRC policy is only to raise concerns directly with the parties concerned, we have not been contacted by the ICRC.

The ICRC monitors prison conditions in detention facilities across Afghanistan, including those run by the Central Government, Regional Governors and US Forces. The UK Government does not have access to ICRC reports on those facilities, in line with ICRC policy on confidentiality.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many prisons and detention camps in Afghanistan are under United Kingdom authority. [181561]

Mr. Straw: There are no prisons or detention camps in Afghanistan under UK authority.

Croatia

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Croatia to join the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [181243]

Mr. MacShane: The June European Council agreed to grant Croatia candidate status, and set a start date for negotiations of early 2005. The UK welcomes this and will continue to support Croatia's EU aspirations. The date of Croatia's eventual accession is in Zagreb's hands, and depends on the pace of reform, the legislative harmonisation process, and continued co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the Foreign Minister of Croatia. [181244]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met the Croatian Foreign Minister on 11 February, during a visit by Dr Zuzul to the UK. I have also met Dr Zuzul in London, Zagreb and Brussels on a number of occasions since then, most recently on 22 June.

Departmental Property

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the expenditure by his Department on refurbishment of property in each year since 1997. [181564]

Mr. Straw: The Department has spent the following sums on refurbishment since 1997:

	£million
1997–1998	3.2
1998–1999	4.7
1999–2000	22.5
2000–2001	31.2
2001–2002	10.1
2002–2003	8.9
2003–2004	6.2

The significantly higher costs in 1999–2000 and 2000–01 cover the second and third years of the project to refurbish the Old Admiralty Building (OAB). All other costs relate to refurbishments at overseas Posts.

Iraq

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under which legal jurisdiction *(a)* civilian contractors and *(b)* his staff working in Iraq will fall from 1 July. [181562]

Mr. Straw: Foreign civilian contractors working in Iraq fall under Iraqi jurisdiction after 28 June, unless they fall within CPA Order 17. This chiefly covers foreign contractors who are supplying goods or services to Diplomatic Missions, the Multinational Force, and for humanitarian aid, reconstruction or development projects. Such contractors will be immune from Iraqi legal process with respect to acts performed by them pursuant to the terms of a contract. Contractors must, however, respect Iraqi laws.

All UK based staff working at the British embassy, Baghdad and the embassy offices in Basra and Kirkuk, will be entitled to the usual diplomatic privileges and immunities.

Polisario Front

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with the Polisario Front about proposals to seek prisoner release. [181377]

Mr. Rammell *[holding answer 30 June 2004]:* The Government have not held discussions with members of any Palestinian groups about prisoner releases.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 July 2004

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environmental Information Regulations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reason is for the delay in introducing the Environmental Information Regulations that were consulted upon in draft in the autumn of 2002 and which were intended to come into force in spring 2003. [180620]

Mr. Morley: European Directive 2003/4, which ensures all member states have equal access to information and puts the Aarhus Convention into law, was published in January 2003. We have therefore had to ensure the EIRs are consistent with the Directive, which must be implemented by February 2005. In November 2003, Ministers agreed to align the EIRs with the Freedom of Information Act as far as possible.

We have also been taking into account views of Government Departments and other stakeholders raised in response to the consultation on the Environmental Information Regulations.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environmental Information Regulations that were consulted upon in draft in the autumn of 2002 will *(a)* be laid before Parliament and *(b)* come into force. [180621]

Mr. Morley: The Environmental Information Regulations will be laid shortly, and will come into force by February 2005, in order to implement European Directive 2003/4/EC.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that the civil justice system in England meets the requirements of *(a)* Article 9(4) of the Aarhus Convention that review procedures must not be prohibitively expensive, *(b)* Article 9(2) of the Aarhus Convention that organisations promoting environmental protection should have a guaranteed right of access to a review procedure before a court of law in environmental matters; and *(c)* Article 9(3) of the Aarhus Convention that members of the public have access to administrative or judicial procedures to challenge acts and omissions by private persons which contravene provisions of national law relating to the environment. [180617]

Mr. Morley: We believe that these requirements as expressed in the terms of Articles 9(2), 9(3) and 9(4) of the Convention are already reflected in the civil justice system in England and Wales.

The Convention covers a field of competence shared between the European Community and its member states. The final form of our implementation of the access to justice provisions must therefore be determined through negotiations with our European partners. We are, however, concerned to ensure that the Community has the best possible arrangements in place to give effect to the access to justice pillar of the Convention.

The Commission's current proposals on the access to justice element of the Convention, which are still subject to negotiation, may ultimately introduce enhanced rights of access for particular organisations from other member states.

Access to Justice

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the United Kingdom will ratify the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; [180652]

(2) if she will place in the Library her Department's assessments of the UK's compliance with each of the obligations placed upon it by the Aarhus Convention. [180618]

Mr. Morley: The Convention covers a field of shared competence between the European Community and its member states. The UK is considering the implications of existing and proposed Community, and domestic, legislation, and before ratifying, we will need to ensure that we can give effect to all the obligations in the Convention that fall within our area of competence.

We hope that it will be possible to complete ratification of the Convention in the first half of 2005.

As usual, information about the UK's implementation of these measures will be provided to Parliament when the relevant implementing measures come before it.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the findings of the report funded by her Department published on 24 March by the Environmental Justice Project entitled Environmental Justice. [180653]

Mr. Morley: The report of the Environmental Justice Project was published in November 2003. It was one of five independent studies into justice in environmental matters, which were wholly or partially funded by Defra.

Its main conclusions are that the civil law system could be improved by the establishment of an environmental court, alteration of rules on costs and improved public access to information about environmental law. The report also concluded that under criminal law the punishment of environmental offences is too low and that more judicial guidance and training is needed, along with greater powers for enforcement agencies.

The Department is currently considering these conclusions alongside the findings of the other research undertaken.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on her Department's policy towards the proposal for an EU Directive on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. [180654]

Mr. Morley: The Department welcomes the proposals. They provide an opportunity to consider what more is needed to complete implementation in the European Community of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. They could also support general compliance with EC environmental law. The Government's general stance in further negotiations on the proposals will be to seek alignment of Community law with the Convention. At the -same time, we will aim to ensure that the Directive is flexible enough to suit the individual requirements of each member state, and in no way restricts access to justice where it currently exists.

Animal By-products

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received about the Animal By-Products Regulations 2003. [180612]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department undertook an extensive consultation process on the draft Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003 No. 1482). Copies of the responses received are available in the Defra Library, and can be obtained on request.

Departmental officials have held regular discussions with those industries and other interested parties who have been affected by the Regulations.

Department Ministers answered over 220 PQs and 350 MCs between January 2001 and December 2003 in relation to the Regulations.

Antibiotics (Pigs)

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what amount of antibiotics is used per 1000 tonnes of live pig in the UK; and what the average figure is in the whole EU. [180371]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) publishes an annual report on the sales of antimicrobial products in the UK. The latest report, for 2002, shows that 98 tonnes (active ingredient) of antibiotics were sold for products authorised only for use in pigs. 998,000 tonnes of pigs (liveweight) were slaughtered in the UK in 2002. However, 283 tonnes (active ingredient) of antibiotic were sold for multi-species products. It is not known how much of these were for pig use. Using the pig only sales tonnage, 98.2 kg (active ingredient) of antibiotic were sold per 1000 tonnes of pigs slaughtered liveweight. As some of the multi-species products may have been used in pigs this figure is likely to be an underestimate. The VMD is working on a system to collect data that will enable the multi-species tonnage to be broken down by species but this is not yet available.

The UK is one of a small number of EU member states that publish data on antibiotic sales. It is not, therefore, possible to give a whole EU equivalent.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions exist on the use of antibiotics in pigs; and if she will make a statement. [180372]

Mr. Bradshaw: Antibiotics for use in animals are authorised either as veterinary medicinal products or as zootechnical feed additives (which include antimicrobial growth promoters). These work by increasing the efficiency of the absorption of feed in the animal's gut thereby allowing them to reach slaughter size more quickly.

The use of zootechnical feed additives in the EU is subject to Directive 70/524/EC, as amended. No feed additive may be authorised unless it satisfies criteria set out in that Directive, including a requirement that at the level permitted in feedingstuffs it does not adversely affect human or animal health or the environment. Such additives may be used only within the terms of their entry in the annexes in the Directive.

Antibiotics are also used as veterinary medicines but no antibiotic is authorised in the UK for the treatment of food producing animals unless it has first been considered by the independent, Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) which advises the Government on the safety, quality and efficacy of veterinary medicines. All such antibiotics authorised in the UK are classified as prescription only medicines. They may be administered only on the basis of a prescription issued by a veterinary surgeon who has the animals under his or her care.

In addition anybody incorporating veterinary medicines or zootechnical feed additives into animal feedingstuffs, or distributing these products, must be inspected, approved and registered by the Animal Medicines Inspectorate (AMI) of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

A new EU Regulation 1831/2003/EC on additives for use in animal nutrition comes into force on 18 October 2004. Among other things this Regulation will ban the use of all veterinary antibiotic growth promoters from 1 January 2006.

Badgers

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the results of trials in Northern Ireland on TB in badgers; and if she will make a statement. [178901]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no trials in Northern Ireland on TB in badgers.

Beef Exports

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department last held talks on the export of beef to *(a)* Thailand and *(b)* other Asian countries. [180717]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra officials have met delegations from a number of countries, including Thailand and South Korea, in the past year and discussed beef exports. Also, diplomatic posts continue regularly to urge host Governments of Asian and other countries to lift bans on imports of UK export eligible beef.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what grounds the Thai authorities ban the import of British beef. [180718]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Thai authorities ban beef imports from countries where cases of BSE have been recorded.

The UK Government believes that this ban is unjustified with respect to UK beef produced under the Date-based Export Scheme .

BSE

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the current situation in relation to BSE in the UK. [181287]

Mr. Bradshaw: *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* As at 21 June 2004, there had been 182,770 confirmed cases of BSE in the UK. Due to stringent controls numbers of BSE cases are now significantly lower than in 1988, when the disease was first made notifiable. Reported new cases are running at less than 1 per cent. of early 1993 levels, at the peak of the epidemic, when there were over 1,000 a week.

Cage and Aviary Birds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on exhibitions of cage and aviary birds, with particular regard to the Pet Animals Act 1951; and if she will make a statement. [181052]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Pet Animals Act 1951 is concerned with the sale of animals and is applicable only to events where sales take place and therefore exhibitions which are solely for competitive showing fall outside the scope of the 1951 Act. Our policy on the sale of pet and captive animals is currently under review and the 1951 Act is likely to be repealed and replaced with more up to date legislation.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service workforce in her Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180184]

Alun Michael: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1292W, by my right hon. Friend, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Paul Boateng).

Contaminated Land

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much contaminated land was reclaimed in each of the last three years in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Eastern Region and *(c)* Essex. [179408]

Mr. Morley: Most remediation of contaminated land takes place as part and parcel of the development of land, and is secured through the planning system. Data on this activity is not collected centrally. Where remediation is instead being secured through Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, data is collected by the Environment Agency. Data to 31 March 2004 is contained in the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 28 April, *Official Report*, columns 1004–12, detailing action under Part IIA, including seven cases in the Eastern region of which two are in Essex. Data about completion of remediation is not collected centrally.

Domestic Water Conservation

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures the Government will bring forward to encourage domestic water conservation. [180186]

Mr. Morley: The Government are engaged in a number of activities to encourage water conservation across different sectors. In relation to domestic water use, the recent report by the Sustainable Buildings Task Group, "Better Buildings—Better Lives", contained a number of recommendations to improve the water efficiency of new and existing buildings. These include tighter minimum standards for water fittings, development of best practice guidance and incentives to encourage the uptake of water efficient products. The Government are actively considering how it will take these forward. I am also looking into the feasibility of introducing a product labelling scheme to help domestic consumers identify water efficient fittings and appliances. These activities will complement the existing duty on water undertakers to promote the efficient use of water by their customers.

Farming

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking *(a)* to promote dairy farming and *(b)* to persuade young people to enter dairy farming. [180714]

Alun Michael: The Government are taking action in line with its Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food to facilitate industry action to create a dairy sector that is attractive, sustainable and profitable for those engaged in it. For example:

My noble friend Lord Whitty has been chairing meetings of a Dairy Supply Chain Forum, which has been looking at co-operative solutions to improve supply chain efficiency and other issues.

The Government have made a grant of nearly £0.5 million to the Food Chain Centre to examine how to improve dairy supply chain efficiency; and

We have established English Food and Farming Partnerships to encourage co-operation and collaboration across all agricultural sectors.

As with all new entrants into farming, young farmers can obtain a range of business advice for start up businesses through the business links network and the Small Business Service. For full time farmers this includes access to the Farm Business Advice Service.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will reduce the administrative burden for farmers. [180715]

Alun Michael: The Government are indeed working hard to reduce administrative burdens on farmers not least through reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, reducing 10 main funding schemes to a Single Payment Scheme. This will remove much of the bureaucracy and paperwork associated with the old schemes and result in a streamlined and simplified application process for farmers. More than 100 pages of forms will be reduced to a fraction of this number. And through the Modernising Rural Delivery Rural Programme we aim to simplify access to rural funding streams.

In addition, the Whole Farm Approach will be rolled out in late 2005. The whole farm appraisal is currently being widely piloted, and this will transform Defra's interactions with farmers on subsidies, regulation and advice by redesigning them around on-farm activities and saving farmers from repeated requests for regulatory data.

The existing administrative burdens on farmers derive largely from regulations to achieve desirable outcomes for society such as protecting human and animal health, animal welfare and the environment. In addition, administrative checks are required to ensure proper disbursement of funds under CAP and other rural schemes. However, the Government are taking a broader approach to reducing administrative burdens on farmers; in response to the recent recommendations of the Regulation Taskforce set up by the Secretary of State. Along with a new unit developing a farm regulation strategy, this will help improve Defra's regulatory performance; achieving a coherent and holistic approach to the development of regulation and its impact on farmers.

Fisheries

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of fishermen in the UK in each year since 1990. [179436]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows estimates of the number of fishermen in the UK for 1990–2002, compiled from estimates made by Defra and other Fisheries Departments in the UK.

Estimates for 2003 are not yet compiled, but will be published in "United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics 2003", available in August 2004.

Number of Fishermen in the UK, 1990–2002

	England and Wales			*Scotland*		
	Regular	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Regular*	*Part-time*	*Total*
1990	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7,550	766	8,316
1991	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7,303	792	8,095
1992	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7,181	865	8,046
1993[2]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7,675	1,347	9,022
1994	7,542	3,425	10,967	7,160	1,410	8,570
1995	8,240	2,192	10,432	6,889	1,506	8,395
1996	7,867	2,130	9,997	6,689	1,395	8,084
1997	7,253	2,176	9,429	6,729	1,465	8,194
1998	7,149	1,962	9,111	6,395	1,376	7,771
1999	6,083	1,613	7,696	6,042	1,288	7,330
2000	5,491	1,815	7,306	5,594	1,308	6,902
2001	6,057	1,392	7,449	5,353	1,284	6,637
2002	5,587	841	6,428	4,369	1,338	5,707

	Northern Ireland			*United Kingdom*		
	Regular	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Regular*	*Part-time*	*Total*
1990	1,050	316	1,366	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
1991	1,081	288	1,369	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
1992	1,036	296	1,332	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
1993[2]	957	272	1,229	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
1994	938	228	1,166	15,640	5,063	20,703
1995	933	226	1,159	16,062	3,924	19,986
1996	815	148	963	15,371	3,673	19,044
1997	850	131	981	14,832	3,772	18,604
1998	892	115	1,007	14,436	3,453	17,889
1999	845	90	935	12,970	2,991	15,961
2000	612	74	686	11,697	3,197	14,894
2001	513	46	559	11,923	2,722	14,645
2002	568	43	611	10,524	2,222	12,746

[1] No data.

[2] The apparent increase in fishermen in Scotland reflected the licensing of 10m and under vessels; when more information became available on the numbers of such active vessels.

Source:

Fisheries Departments in the UK

Multi-pick-up/Drop-off Licences

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evaluation her Department has made of the costs to farmers and hauliers resulting from the continued enforcement of multi-pick-up and drop-off licences; and what assessment she has made of the risks of abandoning such licences. [181367]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* Farmers and hauliers who comply with the rules governing multiple pick-ups and drop-offs incur no costs arising from the enforcement of these provisions. Defra is responsible for the cost of granting approval of multiple pick-ups and drop-offs.

Any vehicle taking livestock onto a farm and then off again as part of a multiple pick-up or drop-off movement risks spreading disease, either to the animals if disease is present on the farm, or to animals on the farm if disease is present in the animals on the vehicle. Given the need for continued biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease there are no proposals to amend the requirement that multiple pick-ups and drop-offs take place only from approved points.

Organic Food Initiatives

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support the Department has made available to organic food initiatives over the last 12 months. [177962]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Organic Farming Scheme has made available improved payments to farmers as outlined in brief here:

Conversion payments over five years of:

£1,860 per hectare for top fruit orchards—apples (others than cider apples) pears, cherries and plums;

£450 per hectare for Arable Area Payment Scheme eligible land and land in permanent crops;

£349 per hectare for other improved land;

£50 per hectare for unimproved land.

Maintenance payments over five years of:

£150 per hectare for top fruit orchards and Arable Area Payment Scheme eligible land and land in permanent crops;

£115 per hectare for other improved;

£25 per hectare for unimproved land.

The modified OFS itself is an interim measure. We have recently announced that we intend (subject to approval by the European Commission) to introduce a payment of £60 per hectare in the organic strand of the Entry Level Stewardship scheme compared with £30 per hectare for non-organic farmers.

Advice to farmers considering converting to organic production is provided free of charge to them by the Defra funded Organic Conversion Information Service.

The Rural Enterprise Scheme has provided support for organic food projects such as small on-farm processing facilities and the development and marketing of organic products. In excess of £1.1 million of RES funding has been awarded to organic food projects during the last year.

Defra have a £2.2 million research budget for organic production. This covers a wide range of support that assists the industry in improving its competitiveness.

There is also provision under the LINK scheme for private sector companies to seek assistance with organic research, £5 million has been allocated to provide organic LINK research over the five years beginning 2003–04.

Ozone

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the levels of urban concentrations of ozone for each year since 1997. [179441]

Mr. Morley: Defra's Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) currently monitors tropospheric ozone concentrations hourly at 85 locations in England, covering a variety of urban, suburban and rural areas. Ozone monitoring in other parts of the UK is the responsibility of the relevant devolved Administration. Data from UK ozone monitors are maintained on an electronic database available to the public on the National Air Quality Information Archive at www.airquality.co.uk. The database currently holds around 116 million air quality measurements and 50 million statistics. The public can interrogate Defra's Air Quality Archive to obtain data, including the levels of urban ozone concentrations for each year since 1997.

The following table summarises the average and range of annual mean ozone concentrations at Defra's urban ozone monitors from 1997 to 2003.

Average, minimum and maximum of annual mean tropospheric ozone concentrations measured in micrograms per metre cubed by Defra's urban monitors in the AURN

	Average	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
1997	31	19	46
1998	34	12	53
1999	38	13	55
2000	36	13	54
2001	36	14	50
2002	37	15	58
2003	40	16	58

Portable Electrical Equipment

Mr. Flight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often since 1997 *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public sector organisations have undergone portable appliance testing of IT equipment; and what the cost was of portable appliance testing in each year since 1997. [176569]

Alun Michael: In DEFRA, there is no central management of portable appliance testing of IT equipment, and at present the level of testing varies from site to site. It is normally undertaken as part of the Facilities Management arrangements for each site and is not controlled by the IT supplier.

At the main IT site at Guildford an annual exercise for portable appliance testing of electrical equipment includes portable IT equipment. Recent costs have been:

	No of devices tested	*Costs*
2001	1,134	1,841
2002	10,986	15,380
2003	3,608	6,359
2004	8,052	13,245

Note:
There are no figures for the period before 2001.

The number of devices tested at Guildford covers all portable electrical appliances including kettles, lamps etc. Separate figures are not maintained for IT equipment testing at Guildford. The number of items tested at Guildford varies from year to year. All portable IT equipment should have a full test at least every five years. Class 1 IT equipment (requiring 3 ply power cable including earth) is tested annually.

Portable appliance testing of IT equipment is not undertaken at most other Defra sites although power leads serving the hardware are tested. This basic level of testing is undertaken annually and has been since 1997 and the average unit cost is currently £10 per device. There are approximately 20,000 portable IT devices (PCs, laptops and printers) in Defra and its agencies.

The cost of collecting and collating the required information from Defra's associated public sector organisations would almost certainly exceed the cost threshold for PQs.

Radioactive Waste

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many radioactive waste sites there are in Lancashire, where they are located; and how often they are inspected. [180426]

Mr. Morley: Two radioactive waste sites are located in Lancashire: Clifton Marsh in Preston and Ulnes Walton in Leyland. Ulnes Walton has not received waste since 1984.

Clifton Marsh is currently inspected six times per quarter and Ulnes Walton twice per quarter.

Refrigerator Recycling

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Environment Agency report auditing the refrigerator recycling scheme has been delayed; and when it is now expected. [179867]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency report auditing the sites handling the recovery of ozone depleting substances from refrigerators and their disposal was originally planned for publication by the end of March 2004. The Agency has since sought to publish a single, comprehensive report that incorporates a subsequent analysis of the process efficiency of the audited sites, and a comparison of their performance. This will be published in July 2004.

Rod Licences

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total amount of revenue raised by fishing rod licences was for each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement on where the revenue was spent. [180026]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total rod licence revenue collected by the Environment Agency in England and Wales for each of the last ten years is as follows:

£ million

	Rod licence revenue
1994–95	12.151
1995–96	11.172
1996–97	12.253
1997–98	13.519
1998–99	12.956
1999–2000	14.211
2000–01	14.419
2001–02	14.869
2002–03	16.109
2003–04	18.005

All rod licence revenue is spent to protect, conserve and improve freshwater fisheries on such actions as enforcement activities, monitoring, research and development, and habitat improvement works.

Rural Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance the Department has provided to individual rural housing schemes in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area. [180390]

Alun Michael: Financial assistance in support of housing is a matter for the Deputy Prime Minister whose Department provided £85 million in 2003–04 (through the Housing Corporation) in support of affordable housing schemes in local authority areas with rural districts.

Defra, through the Countryside Agency and ODPM through the Housing Corporation have financed Rural Housing Enablers. These enablers work with rural communities, housing associations, local authorities and landowners to help increase the supply of affordable housing in rural settlements.

The full breakdown of ODPM support allocated through the Housing Corporation to local authority areas with rural districts for in 2003–04 is detailed as follows. We are not able to breakdown the figures below the level of district to show which units are in rural settlements in the district:

Local authority	*£ allocated*	*Housing units*
Ashford	600,800	10
Dover	673,600	12
Sevenoaks	2,575,665	32
Shepway	235,000	6
Swale	422,781	10
Tonbridge and Mailing	955,464	9
Tunbridge Wells	493,963	12
Lewes	325,000	6
Wealden	260,014	2
Chichester	386,342	9
Mid Sussex	68,223	1
Basingstoke and Deane	386,889	6
Hart	174,000	4
New Forest	1,328,323	20
Test Valley	51,335	2
Winchester	363,405	9
West Berkshire	359,631	8
Windsor and Maidenhead	163,846	4
Wokingham	698,593	18
Guildford	1,620,365	20
Mole Valley	157,500	6
Waverley	602,700	11
South Oxfordshire	317,515	5
AylesburyVale	1,706,987	30
Dacorum	537,013	7
East Hertfordshire	120,242	4
North Hertfordshire		
Three Rivers	850,000	7
Bedford	386,859	8
Mid Bedfordshire	495,573	9
East Cambridgeshire	846,431	19
Fenland	1,137,499	27
Huntingdonshire	592,074	13
Peterborough	188,812	3
South Cambridgeshire	851,368	15
Breckland	895,430	13
Broadland	420,643	5
Great Yarmouth	125,000	25
North Norfolk	1,373,218	26
South Norfolk	1,047,463	15
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	1,038,122	18
Babergh	1,175,300	32
Mid Suffolk	1,341,302	57
St. Edmundsbury	492,893	5
Suffolk Coastal	549,117	16
Braintree	118,549	2

Local authority	£ allocated	Housing units
Epping Forest	841,000	11
Maldon	224,216	3
Uttlesford	569,500	9
North Dorset	1,577,630	34
Purbeck	341,311	5
Kennet	460,445	15
North Wiltshire	324,066	6
Salisbury	640,774	16
West Wiltshire	223,877	5
Mendip	215,824	5
Taunton Deane	1,441,877	18
South Somerset	434,764	7
East Devon	411,000	10
North Devon	914,529	17
South Hams	767,144	41
Teignbridge	579,768	13
Mid Devon	145,105	6
West Devon	20,000	2
Caradon	454,852	15
Carrick	529,018	9
Kerrier	281,686	8
Penwith	261,000	8
Restormel	1,474,122	38
North Somerset	308,850	10
Cotswold	1,047,959	34
Forest of Dean	937,052	28
Stroud	673,616	20
North West Leicestershire	287,725	5
Rutland	1,062,584	21
Boston	1,390,341	24
East Lindsey	514,028	20
South Kesteven	765,627	12
West Lindsey	558,579	30
Daventry	491,318	9
East Northamptonshire	110,000	14
Wellingborough	114,560	2
Bassetlaw	390,410	14
Newark and Sherwood	522,057	20
Amber Valley	444,796	5
High Peak	553,840	24
Derbyshire Dales	1,074,400	15
Bromsgrove	288,164	5
Wychavon	806,150	18
North Warwickshire	695,363	20
Rugby	145,712	5
Stratford-on-Avon	1,253,528	16
East Staffordshire	263,141	4
Newcastle-under-Lyme	131,756	2
South Staffordshire	1,131,286	10
Stafford	187,197	4
Staffordshire Moorlands	366,267	6
North Shropshire	1,002,202	17
Oswestry	1,855,120	37
Shrewsbury and Atcham	940,136	15
South Shropshire	173,037	6
Telford and Wrekin	140,102	2
Bradford	496,617	13
Calderdale	745,000	17
Wakefield	193,275	8
Craven	474,555	8
Harrogate	691,171	7
Richmondshire	679,589	9
Ryedale	401,164	4
Selby	501,385	9
Scarborough	195,753	2
Easington	1,631,659	28
Teesdale	791,923	14
Wear Valley	536,388	6
Alnwick	437,820	7
Berwick-upon-Tweed	2,622,735	38
Tynedale	1,107,644	18
Chester	914,466	19
Congleton	403,041	6
Crewe and Nantwich	393,492	6
Vale Royal	162,093	2
Chorley	410,996	8
Fylde	1,121,000	17
Lancaster	685,483	12
West Lancashire	995,397	15
Allerdale	952,825	10
Eden	1,142,513	23
South Lakeland	277,321	4
South Gloucestershire	1,402,2..	28
East Riding	722,171	12
North Lincolnshire	254,0..	6
Herefordshire	296,7..	4
Malvern Hills	189,6..	4
Total	85,100,791	1,717

Self-storage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Environment Agency has received representations concerning the storage of waste in self-storage sites; and if she will make a statement. [179737]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency have not received any representations about the storage of waste at self-storage sites.

Storage of waste independent from the site of production is an activity requiring a permit or Waste Management Licence.

Any producer of waste who needs to alter the arrangements for temporary storage of waste, pending disposal or recovery may either, (i) apply to the Agency to modify an existing permit or Waste Management Licence; or (ii) make suitable arrangements for the waste management contractor for off-site storage. The Agency has been urging businesses to check that their waste management arrangements remain secure as the ban on landfill co-disposal approaches.

Thames Barrier

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her answer of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 291W, on the Thames Barrier, what assessment she has made of the Chief Scientific Adviser's statement of 31 March that climate change is a reason for increased use of the Thames Barrier. [180287]

Mr. Morley: I am not aware that the Chief Scientific adviser made a statement on 31 March that climate change is a reason for increased use of the Thames Barrier. However, this issue was raised when he provided evidence to the EFRA Committee on Climate Change, Water Security and Flooding on 12 May, when he said that increased use of the Barrier is an indication of the influences of global warming.

The Barrier is closed to protect London from extreme high tidal waters generated by storm surges in the North Sea and to provide storage for extreme freshwater flows, which would threaten west London, and combinations of these phenomena.

It is true that recent years have seen an increase in frequency of Barrier closures but whether this is attributable to changes in operational procedures, increased fluvial flows or climate change is difficult to accurately measure. One factor is that mean sea level and extreme tidal waters are expected to increase as the South East of England continues to fall relative to sea level. This was factored into the design of the Barrier.

Water Treatment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which UK water treatment works are provided with *(a)* activated carbon filtration systems, *(b)* ozone filtration systems and *(c)* both activated carbon and ozone filtration systems; and where each is located. [180615]

Mr. Morley: Water treatment works in the UK which use either activated carbon filtration, or ozonation, or a combination of both processes are not readily identifiable. Granular activated carbon filtration is a standard part of the treatment process at many of the larger water treatment works in England and Wales, particularly where the raw water is derived from river and other surface water sources. In most cases ozonation may be used, either continuously or intermittently, in combination with the activated carbon filtration. A number of groundwater sources are also treated by activated carbon filtration alone, or ozonation followed by activated carbon filtration, depending on the type of contaminants that need to be removed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of UK water treatment works is provided with *(a)* activated carbon filtration systems, *(b)* ozone filtration systems and *(c)* both activated carbon and ozone filtration systems. [180616]

Mr. Morley: The percentage of water treatment works in the UK which are provided with either activated carbon filtration, or ozonation, or a combination of both processes is not readily identifiable. The treatment cycle at many of the larger water treatment works in England and Wales includes ozonation followed by activated carbon filtration, particularly when treating water derived from river and other surface water sources. Some works use granular activated carbon filtration in combination with other processes. A number of groundwater sources are also treated by activated carbon filtration alone, or by ozonation followed by activated carbon filtration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

American Express

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission what service level agreement has been reached with the company due to replace American Express in the Travel Office; what assessment he has made of the consequences for American Express staff of the changes of provider; what measures he has put in place to *(a)* check performance and *(b)* other feedback from hon. Members and their staff of the new company's performance; what the anticipated savings to the House are; and if he will make a statement. [181292]

Sir Archy Kirkwood: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1045W. Detailed discussions for the provision of service are under way with Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT). These include discussion of service standards which will be an important part of the final contract. As I stated on 17 June, I understand it to be CWT's assessment that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations will apply. The jobs of existing staff will thus be protected and they have the opportunity to remain in the Travel Office. A range of measures will be put in place to check on the performance of CWT: these will be reflected in the service standards and monitored on a regular basis. Hon. Members and their staff are encouraged to provide feedback on the service through the Travel Office Consumers' Panel, to the Director of Finance and Administration or to CWT itself. The contract has been let on a competitive basis, and represents best overall value to Parliament, taking account both of the cost of the contract itself, and also potential savings in the cost of travel.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Council Tax

John Barrett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many households are eligible for a reduced level of council tax through the disability reduction scheme, broken down by region. [181929]

Mr. Raynsford: The information requested is tabled as follows.

Government office region	*Number of chargeable dwellings subject to disabled reduction at 3 November 2003*
East of England	14,118
East Midlands	10,246
London	14,415
North East	6,023
North West	16,983
South East	19,927
South West	13,765
West Midlands	14,574
Yorkshire and the Humber	10,903
England total	120,954

Source:
CTB1 2004–05 returns to ODPM

Affordable Housing

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 851W, on social handling, if he will provide a breakdown by Government Office Region of the proportion of *(a)* new social housing for rent and *(b)* affordable housing built in each year since 1990 that had three or more bedrooms. [181665]

Keith Hill: The estimated percentages of registered social landlord (RSL) new build completions in each English Government Office Region that had at least three bedrooms are in the following table. Equivalent figures for other types of affordable housing are not readily available.

	Region								
	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
1990–91	19	19	15	9	27	26	21	17	32
1991–92	11	25	18	15	27	21	19	19	24
1992–93	19	31	21	25	29	29	20	28	33
1993–94	21	32	25	27	31	34	27	32	42
1994–95	32	43	37	30	33	31	27	36	39
1995–96	32	40	36	30	29	35	28	41	36
1996–97	31	38	34	17	24	42	38	38	40
1997–98	33	47	38	26	28	38	38	44	45
1998–99	38	42	35	26	30	43	39	46	36
1999–2000	28	36	39	27	41	39	35	39	38
2000–01	31	37	40	23	36	29	30	36	42
2001–02[1]	64	11	42	36	50	43	23	34	45
2002–03[1]	38	7	60	25	40	36	28	38	71
2003–04[1]	0	38	28	26	37	27	29	27	52

[1] Since 2000–01 the estimated percentage figures are based only on National House Building Council returns only. It is important to recognise that recent large changes in the percentages figures for some regions are a consequence of the underlying numbers being quite small.

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what proportion of the new affordable housing to be built in Tower Hamlets in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 will be (i) social housing for rent, (ii) low cost home ownership (LCHO) stock, (iii) LCHO for key workers and (iv) intermediate rented housing for key workers; [181632]

(2) how many and what proportion of new affordable housing to be built in each London sub-region in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06 will be (i) social housing for rent, (ii) low cost home ownership (LCHO) stock, (iii) LCHO for key workers and (iv) intermediate rented housing for key workers. [181638]

Keith Hill: In 2004–06 the proportion of new affordable homes being provided in Tower Hamlets through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme (ADP) is as follows:

	Percentage
Social housing for rent inc. Temporary Social Housing	46.3
Low cost home ownership	26.4
Low cost home ownership for key workers	19.0
Intermediate rented housing for key workers	8.3

The following table sets out the amount and percentage of affordable housing to be provided in each London sub-region broken down by the same categories as above.

London sub-region	*Dwellings*	*Percentage of programme*
East		
Social Rent inc Temporary Social Housing	2,792	13.1
LCHO	1,459	6.9
Key Worker LCHO	1,591	7.4
Key Worker Intermediate Rent	549	2.6
North		
Social Rent inc Temporary Social Housing	2,039	9.6
LCHO	479	2.3
Key Worker LCHO	961	4.5
Key Worker Intermediate Rent	543	2.6
South East		
Social Rent inc Temporary Social Housing	1,503	7.1
LCHO	663	3.1
Key Worker LCHO	866	4.0
Key Worker Intermediate Rent	201	0.9
South West		
Social Rent inc Temporary Social Housing	1,714	8.0
LCHO	549	2.6
Key Worker LCHO	841	4.0
Key Worker Intermediate Rent	167	0.8
West		
Social Rent inc Temporary Social Housing	2,123	10.0
LCHO	763	3.6
Key Worker LCHO	1,113	5.2
Key Worker Intermediate Rent	360	1.7

Notes:
1. Percentages are for the whole of the programme for London.
2. The figures exclude units provided through works to Registered Social Landlord (RSL) stock.
3. Key worker allocations are part of the national strategy to spend at least £1 billion over three years to 2005–06.

Source:
Housing Corporation London Allocation Statement 2004–06.

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the affordability of new shared ownership schemes in Tower Hamlets to *(a)* homeless, *(b)* overcrowded and *(c)* black and minority ethnic households. [181634]

Keith Hill: Shared ownership is designed to help social tenants and others on modest incomes who cannot afford to purchase a home without help but who can sustain the long-term financial commitment of owner occupation. Availability of schemes depends on regional housing needs and priorities as identified in housing and investment strategies

The London borough of Tower Hamlet's affordability criteria for shared ownership properties is that a 25 per cent. share should be affordable to a household with a minimum income of £18,000 per annum.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has made no detailed assessments for these groups.

Correspondence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter to him of 12 March 2004 from Mr. Howard Kerr, Managing Director of Calor Gas Ltd., regarding the building regulations relating to oil tank installations and the OFTEC self-certification scheme. [177805]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

I replied on 1 July 2004.

English Heritage

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 23 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on English Heritage, if he will seek advice from the Chief Executive of English Heritage as to the reasons for English Heritage abandoning its regional structure. [181551]

Mr. Raynsford: Following the recommendations of the 2002 quinquennial review, English Heritage is strengthening its regional presence. In addition to retaining its nine regional offices, English Heritage is appointing four new Territory Directors (north, south, east and west). This is intended to improve the regional focus of English Heritage activities and strengthen the relationship between national objectives and the needs of regions. It will also create efficiencies by rationalising property management and support functions.

Fire Service

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether it will be possible for fire authorities to repay transitional funding received from his Department in connection with the modernisation programme in the timescale originally required. [181563]

Mr. Raynsford: The Government's position remains that the transitional funding should be repaid in full and within the Spending Review (SR2002) period. However, the Government recognises that there have been delays in the pay and modernisation process and that, among other things, this could mean that we will be seeking to recoup the transitional funding less than a year after it has been distributed to fire and rescue authorities. It is important that we get a clearer picture of the pressures fire and rescue authorities may face, and the extent to which they are making efficiency improvements. To this end the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Local Government Association and Chief Fire Officer Association officials are working to develop the evidence base.

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the implementation of the modernisation of working practices in the Fire Service will lead to the elimination of the provision of beds in fire stations. [181570]

Mr. Raynsford: All Fire and Rescue Authorities are in the process of implementing their first year action plans according to Integrated Risk Management (IRM) principles and will start consulting on their year two plans shortly. IRM replaces the former centrally determined standards of fire cover that sometimes bore little or no relation to the current pattern of risk in a given area. Each authority has to consider the range of risks faced by the communities it serves and then allocate available resources to maximum benefit. As part of that process, authorities have been considering whether current working patterns adequately match the occurrence of incidents over the course of the day. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not expect that there will be a "one size fits all" solution and it will be for each authority to determine what use to make of downtime during the night hours and what rest facilities are appropriate.

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether it is his policy that new negotiating machinery for pay and conditions within the Fire Service must include representatives of fire service unions other than the Fire Brigade Union. [181572]

Mr. Raynsford: It is the Government's policy, set out in the White Paper 'Our Fire and Rescue Service', that union participation in negotiating arrangements for the Fire and Rescue Service should be widened. We hope that voluntary reforms will achieve this. However, Government is seeking reserve powers under the Fire and Rescue Services Bill which would enable it to set up new statutory arrangements if voluntary reforms do not result in improvement.

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will rule out the use of TETRA technology for the delivery of the proposed Firelink Integrated Radio System for the Fire Service. [181547]

Mr. Raynsford: No technology has been ruled out. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is conducting an open competition under EU procurement procedures.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the *(a)* industrial and *(b)* employment implications of the bids for the Firelink contract. [181556]

Mr. Raynsford: The Firelink contract has not reached the stage whereby bids are being evaluated. This is not expected to commence until later this year.

Housing

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of *(a)* privately owned non-rented housing stock, *(b)* privately owned rented housing stock and *(c)* publicly owned housing stock in each English region was estimated to be vacant at the most recent date for which data are available. [181567]

Keith Hill: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The nearest available data by private and social sector are in the following table. Registered Social Landlords are included in the social and not the private sector. This represents the latest data at the 1 April 2003.

Percentage of dwelling stock vacant at 1 April 2003

Region	*Private sector*	*Social sector*
North East	4.1	3.3
North West	4.5	4.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	4.1	3.5
East Midlands	3.3	2.6
West Midlands	3.3	2.9
East of England	2.9	1.5
London	3.6	2.1
South East	2.5	1.5
South West	3.7	1.7
England	3.5	2.6

Source:
ODPM's Housing Investment Programme return and Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical return.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what additional information he has requested from *(a)* the East Lancashire Partnership, *(b)* the local authorities in East Lancashire and *(c)* Elevate before he will consider releasing further resources to tackle housing market collapse in the area. [181983]

Keith Hill: Grant to 31 March 2006 towards the implementation of Elevate East Lancashire's market renewal scheme, aimed at tackling housing market collapse in the area, was announced in my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister's statement of 26 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 69WS.

Subject to performance and the outcome of the spending review, proposals for further implementation of the scheme in later years will be invited in due course. It would be expected that the East Lancashire Partnership and the local authorities in the area would contribute to any proposal made by Elevate.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much housing funding has been allocated to *(a)* Forest Heath district council and *(b)* St. Edmundsbury borough council in each year since 1997. [181798]

Keith Hill: The Housing Capital Allocations given to Forest Heath district council and St. Edmundsbury borough council since 1997–98 are tabled as follows:

Housing capital allocations
(Housing Annual Capital Guidelines ACG)

£000

	Forest Heath	*St. Edmundsbury*
1997–98	310	869
1998–99	277	719
1999–2000	263	787
2000–01	992	2,691
2001–02	397	829
2002–03	500	870
2003–04	386	787
2004–05[1]	322	478

[1] Renamed Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) SCE(R).

Housing Corporation

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place a copy of the Housing Corporation's London allocations statement for 2004 to 2006 in the Library. [181631]

Keith Hill: The Housing Corporation's London Allocation Statement for 2004–06 will be published shortly on the Housing Corporation's website www.housingcorp.gov.uk along with the allocation statements of the other regions. A copy will also be made available in the Library of the House.

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the Housing Corporation's total cost indicator financing regime on the numbers of family-sized affordable homes being built in London; [181636]

(2) if he will make a statement on the Housing Corporation's new partnering regime for registered social landlords building new affordable housing; and what assessment he has made of the potential for greater flexibility in relation to total cost indicators. [181637]

Keith Hill: The Housing Corporation introduced Partnering Programme Agreements (PPAs) into the main Approved Development Programme (ADP) for the 2004–06 programme. PPAs do not use cost benchmarking (as in the TCI regime) and focus on levels of grant paid rather than overall costs to registered social landlords (RSLs). They are individually negotiated. Almost 80 per cent. of the ADP for 2004–06 has been allocated to some 70 RSLs or groups of RSLs under partnering. The introduction of partnering in the 2004–06 ADP encouraged RSLs to bring forward cost effective proposals.

Total Cost Indicators (TCIs) have been used for the 20 per cent. of the 2004–06 ADP not allocated through partnering.

Within the TCI regime, there should be no disincentive to develop larger dwellings as the TCIs increase with the size of the dwellings. The TCIs only provide an indication of the "norm" costs of providing a dwelling of a certain size in a certain area. If more than eight people are to be housed in a dwelling, then RSLs can apply an additional multiplier to raise the TCI to take account of the increased costs.

In the ADP for 2004–06 the proportion on new build properties for rent of three beds or larger across London is around 26 per cent. of total dwellings.

Learning and Skills Councils

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in his discussions with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on his proposals for devolving responsibility for learning and skills councils to the English regions. [181569]

Mr. Raynsford: The learning and skills responsibilities of elected regional assemblies were set out in Chapter 4 of the White Paper, "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions", published in May 2002 (Cm 5511).

The Government have always made their intentions clear to publish a draft Bill on assemblies' powers, functions and structure before any referendums, to help inform people voting. We are on course to do this in July, subject to Parliament's view on the Orders providing for the referendums.

Local Government Reorganisation

Mr. Beith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether it is his intention that county council elections should take place in May 2005 in counties in which local government reorganisation is taking place as a consequence of the setting up of a regional assembly. [182281]

Mr. Raynsford: Where following regional referendums the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is considering implementing any local government reorganisation, we shall need to consider the implications for the electoral cycles of the councils concerned. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will consult widely before pursuing any proposals to change a council's pattern of elections. In the meantime there are no proposals to change county council elections due to take place in May 2005.

Mobile Phone Emissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent research his Department has commissioned into the health risks posed by *(a)* mobile telephone emissions and *(b)* mobile telephone mast emissions; and if he will make a statement. [182314]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not itself commission research into the health risks posed by mobile telephone technology. The Government have established the Mobile Telephone Health Research (MTHR) Programme, which is costing around £7.36 million, is funded jointly by Government and industry. The Department of Health and Department for Trade and Industry provide the secretariat for the programme. The programme is being directed and overseen by an independent management committee led by Professor Lawrie Challis OBE and made up of leading UK and international experts. It is carrying out research into the effects of mobile phone technology on health and encompasses handsets, base stations and emerging radio-based technologies. The process will ensure that Government and the public are kept up to date with new research findings.

New Developments (Landscaping)

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with *(a)* developers and *(b)* local authorities about landscaping new developments. [182054]

Keith Hill: None. However, the Government recognise the important role of proper landscaping in the delivery of well-designed, high-quality and sustainable developments. Government planning policies have for some time emphasised the importance of good design; and in "By Design" and "Better Places to Live" we have issued good practice guidance on achieving good design, which includes advice on landscaping issues. And through establishing CABE Space we are ensuring that good design, management and maintenance of the whole built environment is increasingly built into the communities we create.

Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what change in addition to the natural population growth of Northampton he expects will take place as a result of the development proposed by the Government over the next *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 years. [181657]

Keith Hill: The draft Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy proposed that some 26,400 houses should be built in Northampton between 2001 and 2021 (12,550 for 2001–11 and 13,850 for 2011–21). This included growth that was already planned for in Northampton.

The additional growth is still subject to formal confirmation by inclusion in Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands. As the panel appointed to examine issues arising from the draft Strategy has not reported yet and figures are still subject to further public consultation no definite conclusions about additional population growth can currently be drawn.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimates he has made of the projected population change of Northampton over the next *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 years. [181660]

Keith Hill: The 1996-based sub-national population projections estimated that the population of Northampton would grow from 198,300 in 2001 to 210,500 in 2011 and 221,800 in 2021. The 2001 Census, however, recorded a figure of 194,458 for Northampton. New sub-national projections, based on the Census, which will replace the 1996-based projections, are expected to be issued in August.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimates he has made of the natural change in the population of Northampton, excluding people moving into the town, over the next *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 years. [181661]

Keith Hill: The 1996-based sub-national population projections estimated that the population of Northampton would grow from 198,300 in 2001 to 210,500 in 2011 and 221,800 in 2021.

Of the estimated population growth between 2001 and 2011 an increase of about 7,000 was estimated to be due to natural increase. For the period 2011–21 the natural increase was estimated to be about 6,000.

The 2001 Census, however, recorded a total population of 194,458 for Northampton. New sub-national projections, based on the Census, which will replace the 1996-based projections, are expected to be issued in August.

Planning Appeals

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 100W, what constitutes an enterprise for the purposes referred to. [182254]

Keith Hill: 'Enterprise' is not defined, but a good example of a situation where the financial viability of an enterprise is a relevant planning consideration is at Annex 1 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 7. This indicates that new permanent housing in the countryside

cannot be justified on agricultural grounds unless (among other things) the farming enterprise is economically viable.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether it would be possible to hold the proposed referendums on regional assemblies using conventional voting in polling stations rather than all-postal voting. [181526]

Mr. Raynsford: It is the Government's intention to hold the referendums by all-postal ballots. Orders to that effect were laid on Thursday, 24 June 2004. To hold referendums this autumn, as widely expected, and to allow an adequate campaigning period and timely public information, Parliament needs to approve those Orders before Summer recess.

The Orders do not allow for the referendums to be held by traditional ballot. However, the draft Orders contain a requirement for one assistance and delivery point per 50,000 electors, to be open on polling day between 7am and 10pm and the preceding five working days for normal working hours. So, electors will have the choice as to whether to return their vote by post, to deliver it by hand, or to vote at a place supervised by electoral officials.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information electors will receive with their ballot papers in the forthcoming referendums on the proposed regional assemblies. [181527]

Mr. Raynsford: In addition to their ballot paper and security statement, electors would receive the following information—subject to parliamentary approval:

Instructions to Voters, set out in Form 5 of the draft Regional Assembly and Local Government Referendums Order 2004; and,

Explanatory material, which will describe the local government options using text and maps. The explanatory material will be set out in the draft Order, setting the date of the referendums and the local government options. The Government intends to lay this Order shortly.

Shared Ownership Housing

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the average price was of a 50 per cent. stake in a *(a)* one-bed, *(b)* two-bed and *(c)* three-bed shared ownership property in (i) Tower Hamlets, (ii) the East London sub-region, (iii) London and (iv) England in the latest year for which figures are available. [181635]

Keith Hill: The following table shows the average price of a 50 per cent. share in a shared ownership property, broken down by number of bedrooms, in Tower Hamlets, the East London sub-region, London and England in 2003–04.

Shared ownership sales during 2003–04: average price paid for a 50 per cent. stake

	One bedroom		*Two bedrooms*		*Three bedrooms*	
	Number of sales	*Average price paid (£)*	*Number of sales*	*Average price paid (£)*	*Number of sales*	*Average price paid (£)*
Tower Hamlets	7	69,107	5	91,500	2	123,750
East London sub-region 1	27	68,619	120	81,525	39	94,140
London	165	75,751	331	83,582	89	98,932
England	339	64,202	1,420	62,095	682	66,732

Notes:
1. Because the buyer took a 50 per cent. stake, the average price paid by the buyer represents one-half of the market price of the property.
2. The sales included in the above figures comprise the following schemes:
   Do-It-Yourself Shared Ownership
   Shared Ownership for the Elderly
   Leasehold Schemes for the Elderly
   Ordinary Shared Ownership Schemes
3. East London sub-region 1 is an amalgamation of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Redbridge, Waltham Forest.

Source:
Housing Corporation, CORE Sales.

Telecommunications Masts (Need and Safety Tests) Bill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations have been made to his Department from mobile telephone operators regarding the Telecommunications Masts (Need and Safety Tests) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [182282]

Keith Hill: No representations have been made to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister from mobile telephone operators regarding the Telecommunications Masts (Need and Safety Tests) Bill.

Vernacular Design

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* discussions he has had with housebuilders and *(b)* guidelines he has issued on vernacular design. [182053]

Keith Hill: The Government have neither held discussions with housebuilders nor issued guidelines specifically on vernacular design. The Government are strongly in favour of promoting good design for the purpose of creating high quality, well-designed, sustainable places but do not believe that this is better achieved by favouring one architectural style over any other. Government planning policies have for some time emphasised this; and in "By Design" and "Better Places to Live" we have issued good practice guidance on achieving good design.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has also significantly increased sponsorship of the Commission of Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) which was created in 1999 to champion the cause of better design from £0.5 million in 2002–03 to £17.75 million over the next three years until 2005–06.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption Cases

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many cases in the area of *(a)* Cumbria county council, *(b)* Durham county council, *(c)* Northumberland county council, *(d)* Hartlepool council, *(e)* York city council, *(f)* Middlesbrough council, *(g)* Stockton council, *(h)* Sunderland city council, *(i)* Gateshead borough council, *(j)* Darlington unitary authority, *(k)* North Yorkshire county council, *(l)* Newcastle city council, *(m)* North Tyneside council, *(n)* South Tyneside council and *(o)* Redcar and Cleveland council a decision has been made to (i) authorise and (ii) encourage contact between birth parents and an adopted child following review after the judgment in R *v.* Cannings. [179916]

Margaret Hodge: Information about the decisions of the named local authorities in relation to their specific cases is not held centrally. Where the courts have previously made adoption orders, local authorities will no longer be exercising parental responsibility in relation to children who were their responsibility prior to the adoption. Thus, they will have no powers in relation to determining what contact should take place between adopted children and their birth parents. While, the courts may have made arrangements about contact between children and their birth parents at the time of the making of an adoption order, the responsibility for contact between adopted children and others then becomes a matter for their adoptive parents.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's cases are actively being reviewed following the ministerial announcement of a review on 23 February about the judgment in R *v.* Cannings in the area of the *(a)* Cumbria county council, *(b)* Durham county council, *(c)* Stockton council, *(d)* York city council, *(e)* Hartlepool council, *(f)* Middlesbrough council, *(g)* Darlington unitary authority, *(h)* Gateshead borough council, *(i)* Sunderland city council, *(j)* South Tyneside council, *(k)* North Tyneside county council, *(l)* Newcastle city council, *(m)* North Yorkshire county council, *(n)* Northumberland county council and *(o)* Redcar and Cleveland council social services department; and by what date the review of all potentially affected cases in Cumbria is expected to be complete in each case. [179917]

Margaret Hodge: In my statement to the House on 23 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 37, I made clear that I would be issuing guidance to local authorities about the review of cases. On 26 February 2004 I issued Local Authority Circular 2004(5), which asked local authorities to identify relevant cases either within a four-week period, where the cases were currently before the courts, or a 12-week period, where court orders (which were still in place) had already been made. The review period for the former group ended at the end of March 2004, while the review period for the latter group ended at the end of May 2004. Information derived from an ADSS survey of the former group was placed in the House Library on 17 June 2004. A further survey is to be undertaken of the latter group of cases, the results of which will also be placed in the Library. Specific information about individual local authorities is not available in relation to either survey.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many cases in the area of *(a)* Cumbria county council, *(b)* Durham county council, *(c)* Northumberland county council, *(d)* Stockton council, *(e)* Hartlepool council, *(f)* York city council, *(g)* Sunderland city council, *(h)* Gateshead borough council, *(i)* Middlesbrough borough council, *(j)* Darlington unitary authority, *(k)* North Yorkshire county council, *(l)* Redcar and Cleveland council, *(m)* Newcastle city council, *(n)* North Tyneside council and *(o)* South Tyneside council a decision has been made that a case should be returned to court for reconsideration following the judgment in R *v.* Cannings. [179918]

Margaret Hodge: Information about the number of cases returned to court by individual local authorities is not held centrally. The results of the ADSS survey of cases currently before the courts were placed in the Library of the House on 17 June 2004, as made clear in my written ministerial statement of that date. A further survey of past cases is to be undertaken by the ADSS, the results of which will also be published, later in the summer, by being placed in the House Library.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many cases in the area of *(a)* Cumbria county council, *(b)* Durham county council, *(c)* North Yorkshire county council, *(d)* Newcastle city council, *(e)* North Tyneside council, *(f)* South Tyneside council, *(g)* Sunderland city council, *(h)* Gateshead borough council, *(i)* Middlesbrough borough council, *(j)* Stockton council, *(k)* Hartlepool council, *(l)* York city council, *(m)* Darlington unitary authority, *(n)* Northumberland county council and *(o)* Redcar and Cleveland council a decision towards adoption has been reversed or varied in a case reviewed by the Criminal Cases Review Commission following the judgment in R *v.* Cannings. [179919]

Margaret Hodge: No information is held centrally about cases reviewed by the Criminal Cases Review Commission following the judgment in R *v.* Cannings. The Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers has written to the legal representatives of five convicted individuals, drawing to their attention the possibility of a referral being made to the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Information about the local authority areas of origin of the convicted people are not held centrally.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many cases in the area of *(a)* Cumbria county council, *(b)* North Yorkshire county council, *(c)* Sunderland city council, *(d)* Gateshead borough council, *(e)* Darlington unitary authority, *(f)* Middlesbrough borough council, *(g)* Hartlepool council, *(h)* York city council, *(i)* South Tyneside council, *(j)* Redcar and Cleveland council and *(k)* Northumberland county council a decision has been made to return a child to its birth parents following the judgment in R *v.* Cannings. [179920]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held centrally. On 17 June 2004, the results of the first survey by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) were placed in the Library of the House of Commons. This revealed that in one case there had been a change in the care plan for a child following a local authority review in the light of the judgment in R *v.* Cannings. In a further 38 cases, it was not yet known

whether the review would result in a change in the care plan. In a further eight cases, there had been no change in the care plan. Information about the identity of the local authorities involved in these cases is not held centrally.

Children's Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the capital costs of merging children's services; and what provision he has made in his departmental budget for such costs. [179244]

Margaret Hodge: No overall estimate of the capital costs of merging children's services has been made.

A capital budget of £317.8 million is available to develop children's centres in the 20 per cent. most disadvantaged areas by March 2006. These centres will offer child care integrated with early education, health family and parenting support. Local authorities are developing them from a wide variety of existing provision such as Sure Start local programmes, early excellence centres, schools and health centres which also benefit from other sources of capital investment.

£12.6 million was made available in 2003–04 and £23.8 million has been made available in 2004–05 to support the development of extended schools for schools to provide a range of children and family services on their premises. Up to 10 per cent. of this funding can be used for minor capital works schools need to undertake in order to house services.

As part of Building Schools for the Future, we want to facilitate better joined-up planning and funding for extended schools and the co-location of services on school sites. Building Schools for the Future (BSF) will invest approximately £2.2 billion in secondary schools in 2005–06, and will contribute to the integrated children's services agenda by creating schools that are accessible to the wider community and which have flexible, multi-use areas that can be used by other services.

In addition to BSF, the Government are allocating around £2.9 billion to schools and LEAs for investment in school buildings in 2005–06. LEAs and schools decide locally how to invest the bulk of this funding, and can invest it in extended schools facilities, community of use of facilities and integrating education and other local authority services and needs, where these are prioritised locally in asset management plans.

Church Schools

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what decisions have been taken by his Department about the capital financing of church schools. [181658]

Mr. Miliband: Ministers are reviewing the capital funding of all maintained schools, including those that are voluntary aided (VA), as part of the process of agreeing the 2004 Spending Review settlement. We are also establishing a working group, comprising representatives of the VA sector, to review and consult on all elements of VA capital strategy and delivery.

As part of the review we have agreed, with other shareholders (Partnerships UK and the Church of England's National Society) to move Partnerships for Church of England Schools (PfCS) into Partnerships for Schools (PFS). This will ensure a consistent approach, economies of scale and flexibility across all school sectors. We have agreed, as part of the move, to fund 13 school projects that were planned for investment in the first wave of the PfCS programme.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what impact he expects the recent decision on the private finance initiative for church schools will have on the capital funding of redevelopment of church schools in Northampton as part of the town's schools' reorganisation. [181659]

Mr. Miliband: None. The reorganisation involves eight voluntary aided schools and the Department continues to work with the local education authority and the relevant Dioceses to ensure that those schools are able to play their full part in the reorganisation. To date we have agreed funding of some £47 million for the schools concerned.

Dentistry

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the Research Assessment Exercise 2008; and whether it will take into account the clinical workload of dental clinical academics. [181643]

Alan Johnson: Following the wide ranging consultation on the review of research assessment carried out by Sir Gareth Roberts in 2003, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the other UK funding bodies announced in February 2004 the format and timing of the next Research Assessment Exercise. The new RAE framework will retain the features which the majority supported in the consultation exercise. In addition, the new process will be designed to better recognise and assess excellence in applied research, including clinical work within the health professions. It remains the responsibility of individual institutions to determine and plan the management of staff on research strategy, including workload and submissions to the RAE.

Departmental Spending

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Sir Peter Gershon regarding the scope for reducing administration spending in his Department. [180533]

Mr. Charles Clarke: There have been a range of discussions on this topic both at ministerial and official level.

Departmental Staff

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total amount paid by his Department to employment agencies for the supply of temporary staff was in financial year 2003–04. [178916]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The following table gives the figures for the total expenditure in my Department on agency staff in the financial year 2003–04.

£

Financial year	*Agency spend for the financial year*
2003–04	2,341 814.06

Dyslexia

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to improve the screening and assessment of children for dyslexia. [180530]

Margaret Hodge: When dealing with dyslexia, as with other recognised special educational needs conditions, schools and local authorities are expected to have regard to the SEN Code of Practice, published in November 2001, which gives practical advice on carrying out their statutory duties to identify, assess and make suitable provision for children with SEN. However, the precise arrangements for any screening and assessment arrangements are for local determination.

The National Literacy Strategy includes a range of specific guidance material for teachers and SEN Co-ordinators on dyslexia. Officials are currently working with both the Dyslexia Institute and the British Dyslexia Association to develop new resources in this area. The Department has also supported a number of initiatives aimed at raising awareness to help teachers to identify pupils with dyslexia and to take appropriate action at an early stage.

The Government's recently published Strategy for SEN, 'Removing Barriers to "Achievement", sets out a long term vision for SEN, together with a programme of sustained action and review, both nationally and locally. Among the initiatives outlined in the Strategy is a new Inclusion Development Programme to help schools become more effective in responding to the needs of individual pupils. The programme will support partnership projects involving education, health and social care, as well as a wide range of other partners, to develop and pilot effective practice. The aim is to improve the evidence base about what works and build consensus about how to implement good practice more effectively for particular types of SEN including dyslexia.

Education (Isle of Wight)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Isle of Wight council about changes to the structure of education on the island; and what funding streams are available to meet costs associated with restructuring, broken down by *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans. [181678]

Mr. Miliband: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with representatives of Isle of Wight LEA about the structure of education on the island. The organisation of schools is a matter for the LEA. If changes are proposed these will be decided under local decision making arrangements and Ministers have no powers to intervene.

Capital funding is available to support school reorganisation where this is a local priority. The bulk of capital funding is now allocated to LEAs and schools by needs-related formula so that they can decide how to target the increasing resources which they are now receiving to address their highest priority needs. The funding available also includes Building Schools for the Future, where the government are committed to renewal of all secondary schools in England within 10–15 years from 2005–06, subject to future public spending decisions. All authorities will be given an indication of the likely timing of investment in their area in the autumn. Capital funding is now delivered as PFI credits, capital grant and supported borrowings. The balance of what sort of funding is delivered to any authority will depend on the funding available and local circumstances.

Nursery Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which neighbourhood nursery projects he has funded; and which have subsequently closed; [178389]

(2) what his target is for *(a)* the number of new neighbourhood nurseries to be set up in the next five years and *(b)* the number of children they will cater for; [178390]

(3) what assessment of sustainability is made for new neighbourhood nursery projects before funding is granted; [178391]

(4) how much money has been spent on neighbourhood nurseries since their inception, expressed *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* per place created; [178392]

(5) what his plans are for *(a)* future funding and *(b)* expansion of the qualifying criteria for neighbourhood nurseries. [178393]

Margaret Hodge: 1,145 neighbourhood nurseries are open, providing 39,584 places. No neighbourhood nurseries have so far closed.

We are committed to delivering 45,000 high quality places through neighbourhood nurseries and are on target to do so by the end of summer 2004. There are no plans to develop further neighbourhood nurseries. Instead, our future focus is on the development of children's centres, which build on existing provision such as Sure Start local programmes, neighbourhood nurseries, Early Excellence centres and maintained nursery schools. In the current spending review period we plan to develop children's centres and 43,000 new full day care places in disadvantaged areas.

To ensure sustainability all providers wishing to develop a neighbourhood nursery were required to submit a five-year business plan to their local authority at the planning stage. The business plan contains sustainability plans including the establishment of a viable fee structure and identification of other relevant sources of funding and support that will help sustain nursery after the initial three-year funding period. £31 million sustainability funding through the Sustainability Grant is also available for local

authorities to support provision in the most disadvantaged areas and they can choose to use this money to support neighbourhood nurseries if necessary.

£100 million from the New Opportunities Fund and £25 million from the Department for Education and Skills has been allocated to projects as capital to help build and refurbish premises where necessary. Financial figures are not collected with the same frequency as nursery opening figures. The latest figures which enable us to compare finance and nursery openings show around £84.5 million has so far been allocated to local authorities for 1,088 open neighbourhood nursery projects at an average of £2,272 capital per neighbourhood nursery place.

£246 million has been allocated by the Department for Education and Skills to cover revenue funding for neighbourhood nursery projects. Each neighbourhood nursery is entitled to a maximum of £5,400 per neighbourhood nursery place, which is paid over three years. The Sure Start unit has agreed to some projects converting some of this revenue to capital money, and as a result, based on the 1,088 open nurseries, around £182.5 million is due over their first three years of operation working out at an average of £4,906 per place.

Once the remaining neighbourhood nurseries in development are open the full capital and revenue budgets will be spent.

Pupil Statistics

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of pupils aged 11 to 18 attend schools catering for *(a)* seven to 11, *(b)* seven to 13, *(c)* five to eight, *(d)* four to seven, *(e)* nine to 13 and *(f)* other year groups in each local education authority. [181009]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* The available information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Socially Disadvantaged Learners

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Learning and Skills Council has to fund college nurseries for socially disadvantaged learners. [180931]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the number of children with special educational needs who are not in school but are awaiting an appropriate placement. [180340]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* The information requested is not held centrally. However, of the 28,100 children for whom new statements were issued last year, some 800 were being educated other than in school, approximately:

100 pupils were permanently excluded and waiting for placement;

300 were the subject of alternative arrangements made by their local education authorities;

200 were the subject of other arrangements made by their parents; and 200 were waiting for provision.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants were recruited in the last 12 months. [181698]

Mr. Alexander: Information on numbers of civil servants recruited in the last 12 months is not yet available. The most recent numbers available relate to the period ending April 2002. Numbers recruited to April 2003 will be available later in summer 2004.

A breakdown of numbers of civil servants recruited is published annually in Civil Service Statistics. Table I shows the number of Permanent Entrants to the Civil Service. Copies of Civil Service Statistics are available in the Library and at www.civil-service.gov.uk/statistics.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Electoral Register

Mr. Webb: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that, for future elections, marked electoral registers are available which indicate *(a)* which voters voted in person and *(b)* which voters used postal votes. [182063]

Mr. Leslie: Registers marked to show who has been issued with a ballot paper at a polling station are already compiled. We are examining carefully the proposal to mark registers to indicate the return of postal ballot papers, as part of our consideration of a number of options for electoral reform.

FOI (Charges)

Norman Baker: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that charges for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 do not have a deterrent effect on the volume of requests likely to be made. [182373]

Mr. Lammy: The Government have stated that a fee structure that acted as a significant deterrent to people making use of their rights under the Act would go against the spirit and purpose of the Act.

Magistrates

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Government have to provide more training to magistrates on community sentences. [182293]

Mr. Leslie: The Judicial Studies Board (JSB) is developing a national training programme in respect of the changes arising out of the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, including the new provisions for community sentences. This programme will include training materials for magistrates and their legal advisers supported by training courses for MCC trainers.

Statutory responsibility for the training of magistrates currently rests with the 42 independent Magistrates Courts Committees (MCCs). In court lay magistrates sit with their justices clerk or a legal adviser. The justices clerk has a statutory duty to provide advice to the magistrates on questions of law, practice and procedure. This will include advice on applying any case law and relevant Court of Appeal judgments when making decisions on sentence.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcohol Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with Ofcom regarding the fundamental review of alcohol advertising recommended in the Government's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy; when she expects Ofcom to initiate the review; and if she will make a statement. [181935]

Estelle Morris: The Department has had a number of discussions with Ofcom concerning their work to review the rules on broadcast advertising for alcoholic drinks as recommended in the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England published by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. I understand that Ofcom are currently considering possible changes to the relevant rules in the light both of academic research and specially commissioned studies; and that Ofcom intend to consult on any proposed changes this summer.

Historic Environment

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what conclusions have been reached by Green Ministers in relation to the commitment in "The Historic Environment: A Force For Our Future", to extend her remit to include the historic environment. [181432]

Estelle Morris: Green Ministers have added the historic environment to their remit.

Playing Fields

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Oral Answer, 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 6 on playing fields, to which cricket pitch in Blaby constituency the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Central was referring. [181713]

Mr. Caborn: The cricket pitch is located in Narborough and was originally part of the Carlton Park hospital.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many school playing fields have been lost in East Devon in the past five years. [182046]

Mr. Caborn: The Department only gathers statistics on planning applications relating to school playing fields, not those that have been lost.

Over the past five years, Sport England has received no planning applications for development on school playing fields in East Devon.

World Heritage Sites

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the world heritage sites in the UK. [181753]

Mr. Caborn *[pursuant to his reply, 30 June 2004, Official Report, c. 309W]:* The UK has 25 World Heritage Sites of which 22 are located within the UK mainland.

I regret that in my previous answer the table omitted to include Durham Cathedral and Castle and Fountains Abbey, St. Mary's Church and Studley Royal Park.

An amended list giving a breakdown of these sites and the years in which they were inscribed is in the following table.

Date of inscription	*World Heritage Site*
1986	Durham Cathedral and Castle
1986	Fountains Abbey, St. Mary's Church and Studley Royal Park
1986	Ironbridge Gorge
1986	Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites
1987	Blenheim Palace and Park
1987	Palace of Westminster, St. Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey
1987	City of Bath
1987	Hadrian's Wall
1989	The Tower of London
1988	Canterbury Cathedral (with St. Augustine's Abbey and St. Martin's Church)
1986	Castle and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd
1986	St. Kilda
1986	Giant's Causeway and Causeway coast
1996	Edinburgh Old and New Towns
1997	Maritime Greenwich
1999	Heart of Neolithic Orkney
2000	Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
2001	Dorset and East Devon Coast
2001	Derwent Valley Mills
2001	New Lanark
2001	Saltaire
2003	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

WALES

Milton Haven

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the proposed upgrade on the liquefied natural gas handling facility at Milton Haven's vulnerability to terrorist attack; what steps his

Department has taken to develop an appropriate anti-terrorism strategy to help protect the new facility; and if he will make a statement. [179864]

Mr. Jamieson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport's Transport Security Directorate (TRANSEC) are aware of this proposed project. If the development goes ahead, TRANSEC inspectors will work with company management to ensure that appropriate security measures are incorporated. The requirements would also be laid down in their Port Facility Security Plans.

TRANSPORT

Motoring Offences (New EU Members)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his Department's policy is towards persons from the new EU member states driving in the United Kingdom without insurance; and if he will make a statement; [181245]

(2) what sanctions can be taken against persons from the new EU member states driving in the United Kingdom without insurance; [181246]

(3) what plans he has to reduce the number of motoring offences being committed by persons from the new EU member states; [181249]

(4) what his Department's policy is towards persons from the new EU member states driving in the United Kingdom without a licence; and whether he will make a statement; [181250]

(5) what sanctions can be taken against persons from the new EU member states driving in the United Kingdom without a licence; [181251]

(6) what sanctions can be taken against persons from the new EU member states who drive without due care and attention in the United Kingdom. [181253]

Mr. Jamieson: The Government's policy towards persons in the United Kingdom driving without insurance, driving without a licence, and driving without due care and attention, is to apply the requirements and sanctions contained in legislation. For Great Britain, that legislation is the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988. The provisions apply to persons from the new EU member states as to other drivers. For Northern Ireland, similar provisions exist in Northern Ireland law.

As regards offenders with no fixed address in the United Kingdom, the Government recognise that there are practical difficulties relating to their prosecution, as they are likely to leave the UK to return to their home states and cannot be compelled to return. There are also practical difficulties relating to the application of the fixed penalty system to them. The Government are examining ways of improving the effectiveness of the system.

No special provisions are made in respect of drivers from the new EU member states. Under the second EC Directive on Driving Licences (91/439/EEC) full mutual recognition was granted to all driving licences issued in EEA countries and the minimum testing and medical standards that must be met before a licence is issued were harmonised. From 1 May 2004, this recognition extends to licences issued in the accession states—as does the requirement to meet the minimum testing and medical standards.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is towards persons from the new EU member states who drive vehicles registered in their own states in the United Kingdom, whose maintenance standards do not meet those required for British registered vehicles; what sanctions can be taken against these persons; and if he will make a statement. [181252]

Mr. Jamieson: All vehicles have to comply with minimum standards of roadworthiness irrespective of the country in which they are registered. If they do not their drivers and operators can be prosecuted and fined. The vehicle can also be prohibited from moving until necessary repairs have been carried out.

A344

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will close with immediate effect, on safety grounds, the A344 at its junction with the A303(T) at Stonehenge. [181255]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency has responsibility for the A303(T) road and has no plans to close this junction. Traffic management at the junction is constantly under review and recent improvements have been made. All traffic entering the trunk road from the A344 can now only turn left—avoiding a turn across fast moving traffic. The A344 is the responsibility of Wiltshire county council and any closure in relation to this road would have to be undertaken by them.

The construction of the A303 Stonehenge improvement will remove the junction of the A344 and the A303. Subject to the outcome of statutory procedures and the availability of funds construction of this scheme could start in the spring of 2005.

A46/M5/M50/A40

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Highways Agency is not holding public meetings in Droitwich and Worcester as part of its consultation on the A46/M5/M50/A40 route management study. [181734]

Mr. Jamieson: In deciding where to hold exhibitions the Highways Agency considers the resources required against the likely level of response. Where sections of motorway are involved there is generally a much better response to information leaflets and questionnaires than to exhibitions. These are used where the route passes through communities.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is being invited to participate in the Highways Agency's consultation on the A46/M5/M50/A40 route management strategy; and how the consultation is being publicised. [181737]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency is consulting both interested authorities and individuals who live near or use the A46, A40 trunk roads, the M5 (Junctions 5–9) and the M50, for their views on its proposed Route Management Strategy (RMS).

The consultation process has been publicised through a wide variety of media and communications outlets, including leaflets and questionnaires.

Airport Security

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what promotional material relating to airport security was prepared by his Department, its predecessors and agencies and offered for potential broadcast *(a)* on TV, *(b)* on radio and *(c)* in cinemas since 11 September 2000; what has been broadcast by whom and when; which (i) programmes, (ii) companies and (iii) organisations have refused to broadcast such material; and if he will make a statement. [180844]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has not produced any promotional material relating to airport security for potential broadcast on TV, radio and in cinemas. Airports/airlines however have provided passengers with information on security related issues, for example, items that are not allowed in hand luggage.

Aviation Fuel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the annual *(a)* tonnes of aviation fuel consumed and *(b)* carbon emissions resulting from the circling of aircraft over London while in holding patterns. [182241]

Mr. McNulty: Assessments of this nature tend to be undertaken at the international level on account of the structure of the industry. The IPCC Special Report on Aviation and the Global Atmosphere (1999) noted that enhanced air traffic management had the potential to lead to a global fuel saving of between 6 per cent. and 12 per cent. of total fuel consumption. Estimates of fuel savings include inefficiencies linked to airspace structure and current management practices as well as the more local phenomenon of holding due to airport congestion. Implementation of the EC Single European Sky initiative, which came into force on the 20 April 2004, should lead to more direct routing and consequential fuel savings, estimated to be of the order of 10 per cent. The UK has also supported the production and promulgation of guidance from the International Civil Aviation Organisation entitled Operational Opportunities to Minimise Fuel Use and Reduce Emissions (Circular 303, February 2004).

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* other EU member states raised, at the Transport Council on 11 June (i) taxation options for aviation fuel and (ii) an emissions trading regime for aviation. [182243]

Mr. McNulty: These issues were not discussed at Transport Council on 11 June. However, emissions trading is under active consideration at official level, and we will be working at all levels over the coming months to promote the Government's policy on this subject.

British Transport Police

Mrs. Helen Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will propose legislation to extend permanently the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police. [181331]

Mr. McNulty: With effect from 1 July 2004, the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 provides the British Transport Police with a wholly statutory jurisdiction over railway property throughout Great Britain. It provides BTP constables with all the powers and privileges of a Home Office police constable when they are on the railways. The Act also provides for BTP's jurisdiction to extend outside railway property on all matters connected to the railways.

The British Transport Police also have jurisdiction outside the railways on non-railway matters. This jurisdiction is provided by the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. This Act allows a British Transport Police officer to act as a constable anywhere in Great Britain when asked for assistance by a local police officer, or in an emergency. The Government has welcomed the endorsement of the provisions that extend BTP's jurisdiction in limited circumstances by the Privy Counsellor Committee which reviewed the Act. At this time, the Government does not consider it necessary to introduce any further legislation in respect of BTP's jurisdiction but, as recommended by the Committee, the Government is content to revisit, the BTP provisions in the Act when a suitable legislative vehicle becomes available.

Bus Sector

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he has taken since October 2003 to disseminate good practice in the bus sector to *(a)* individual authorities, *(b)* bus companies, *(c)* regulators and *(d)* professional and trade bodies, including trade unions; what the (i) cost and (ii) means of dissemination were; what assessment has been made in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180818]

Mr. McNulty: Publications since my Written Answer to the hon. Member for Bath (Don Foster) on 28 October 2003, *Official Report*, columns 142–43W, include the following:

(a) "Rural Bus Service Provision", drawing on experience with Rural Bus Grant and the Rural Bus Challenge, and aimed at local authority officers and elected Members, transport operators and other local interest groups;

(b) "Protecting bus and coach crews", which advises bus drivers and crews, operators and local authorities on measures they can take to reduce the incidence and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in bus travel;

(c) "Ticketing templates". On behalf of the Bus Partnership Forum, the Department has published models of multi-operator ticketing agreements based on ones that have been approved by the Office of Fair Trading, with the aim of encouraging other such agreements being made.

The guidance on local authority procurement of local bus services, referred to in the previous answer, is still in preparation.

The Department intends to publish guidance later this year on applications by local authorities for quality contracts schemes under the Transport Act 2000 and is about to consult on a draft of this guidance.

In April 2004 the Government announced the award of Beacon Council status to six local authorities under the theme of Better Local Public Transport. Each of the six authorities has demonstrated excellence in improving public transport in its area, and partnership working with local bus operators accounts for a large part of this. The six authorities are undertaking a series of events with the support of the Improvement and Development Agency specifically designed to enable them to spread their good practice to other authorities. The first of these events, at which I will be speaking, is a National Learning Exchange on 14 July.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he has taken to encourage *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* bus companies to promote the use of quality bus partnerships and corridors; and if he will list the (i) local authorities and (ii) bus companies involved in quality bus partnerships and corridors, (A) number of passengers carried (1) before and (2) after implementation, (B) number of services run and (C) length of the schemes involved. [180819]

Mr. McNulty: I regularly encourage local authorities and bus companies to work together in partnership and am pleased that the majority of local transport authorities in England are involved in one or more voluntary quality bus partnership agreements. Many such agreements comprise one or more bus corridor improvements. Because these agreements are voluntary there is no requirement to report them and the comprehensive information requested is not available. Local transport in Wales and Scotland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

The Department provides funding to English local authorities for bus priority measures such as quality bus corridors. Funding provided in 2003–04 was forecast to deliver over 1,300 kilometres of improved bus routes in that year.

In September 2003 the Bus Partnership Forum published an information pack "Bus Priority: The Way Ahead" to help local authorities get the most out of bus priority measures including bus corridors. Further leaflets are being produced to be added to this pack and will be published within the next few months.

Research shows that quality partnership schemes typically increase bus patronage by between 5 per cent. and 20 per cent. within the first 12 months of operation. These schemes also contribute towards modal shift, with surveys showing that around 33 per cent. of new users had previously undertaken their journey by car.

Bus/Coach Accidents

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight injuries there were to seated bus and coach passengers in Great Britain over the last 10 years. [180827]nb

Mr. Jamieson: The number of seated bus and coach passengers injured in road accidents in the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

Seated bus and coach[1] passenger casualties, by severity: GB 1994–2003

	Killed	*Serious*	*Slight*	*All*
1994	11	311	4,946	5,268
1995	26	336	4,313	4,675
1996	4	258	4,715	4,977
1997	6	198	4,766	4,970
1998	7	224	5,011	5,242
1999	3	240	5,376	5,619
2000	7	233	5,262	5,502
2001	4	197	5,188	5,386
2002	8	207	4,635	4,850
2003	0	172	4,826	4,998

[1] Vehicles equipped to carry 17 or more passengers regardless of use, excludes PSV licensed minibuses.

Bus/rail Services

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statistics he collects on *(a)* integrated bus/rail links and services, *(b)* hail-and-ride services and *(c)* combined ticketing for bus, rail and taxi journeys. [180820]

Mr. McNulty: No statistics are collected on integrated bus/rail links and services *(a)*, or on hail-and-ride services *(b)* . Whilst there is no combined bus, rail and taxi ticket *(c)* , there is a combined bus and rail ticket available. PlusBus is a ticket that provides a simple add-on bus option to rail tickets at either or both ends of a train journey. The PlusBus scheme is run by Journey Solutions, a group set up by the passenger transport industry, and can currently be used at 176 stations nationwide. A further 11 stations plan to join the scheme in July, with an additional 16 planned for September.

The DfT does not collect data on the PlusBus scheme directly, but instead is supplied regularly with the information by Journey Solutions.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the procurement programme for domestic rolling stock on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. [181189]

Mr. McNulty: DfT is working with the SRA and the rolling stock company to ensure proposals offer good value for money. We will make an announcement as soon as possible.

Collisions

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of motor vehicles colliding with trains on railway lines there were in each year since 1 April 2001; and in which locations the collisions took place. [180902]

Mr. McNulty: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has provided the following information on the number of incidents involving motor vehicles colliding with trains for the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2004 in the following table.

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04[1]
Road vehicles colliding with trains at level crossings	15	19	18
Road vehicles colliding with trains resulting in the train derailing	4	3	3
Trains colliding with road vehicles not at level crossings	5	4	3
Total	24	26	24

[1] Provisional and subject to change.

The data are based on incidents, reportable by the railways to HSE's Railway Inspectorate (HMRI) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). A list of the locations of where these incidents occurred, compiled by the HSE, has been placed in the House Library.

Commuters (Public Sector)

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the proportion of public sector workers who commuted to work via public transport in each year since 1992. [180890]

Mr. McNulty: The table gives the proportion of public sector workers In the UK who commuted to work by public transport in each year since 1993. The data are derived from the Labour Force Survey. Figures for 1992 are not available on the same basis.

	Percentage commuting by public transport
1993	14
1994	13
1995	13
1996	13
1997	13
1998	13
1999	13
2000	12
2001	13
2002	13
2003	13

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Departmental Expenditure

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate his departmental underspend in the financial year 2003–04, broken down by *(a)* resource, *(b)* capital expenditure and *(c)* consumption of resource type; and where this underspend has been or will be allocated. [180831]

Mr. McNulty: The Department's estimated outturn relative to final provision for Resource and Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) is shown in Tables 2.4 and 2.5, respectively, of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2004 (Cm 6201).

Provisional outturn will be published next month in Public Expenditure 2003–04 Provisional Outturn, which will also include details of the unspent DEL from 2003–04 and prior years that the Department is entitled to carry forward under the End Year Flexibility (EYF) scheme. Any allocation of EYF to particular programmes in 2004–05 will be set out in the Department's Supplementary Estimates and associated DEL Written Statements.

Deprived Areas

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public money has been invested in transport provision for deprived areas in each of the last five years. [180854]

Mr. McNulty: The Department for Transport does not collate or hold financial information in the format requested.

Driving Instructors

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accredited driving instructors there were in each year since 2000. [181049]

Mr. Jamieson: The number of Approved Driving Instructors on the statutory Register at the end of each financial year was:

1999–2000	29,103
2000–01	29,626
2001–02	29,962
2002–03	31,807

Provisional figures for 2003–2004 suggest 33,000 registered instructors. The actual figure will be in the Driving Standards Agency's Annual Report and Accounts, which will be published later this year.

DVLA

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's automatic number plate reader project. [180860]

Mr. Jamieson: DVLA ANPR cameras, which detect unlicensed vehicles on the move, were introduced in October 2001. 15 of these van-based systems, which are operated by DVLA staff, are deployed across the country. The system can be deployed in minutes on bridges and in lay-bys and can read all types of GB and Northern Ireland plates, whether on the front or rear of a vehicle. Plates can be read in all but the most extreme weather conditions, and also in heavy or fast moving traffic. The system operates in conjunction with the police during DVLA's Vehicle Excise Duty campaigns.

DVO Blueprint

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to implement the DVO Blueprint Strategy and Work Programme; and what assessment has been made of its implementation. [180851]

Mr. Jamieson: The DVO Blueprint was the report which provided the basis of the coherent, forward looking, customer-focused business strategy now being adopted by the DfTs Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group. Key measures implemented as a result of that work include the re-constitution of the DVO Board under a non-executive chairman with business experience, the appointment of a Director-General to

lead and co-ordinate the development of the Group, the delivery of the first tranche of electronic service delivery including Driver Test Bookings, Operator Licensing and Electronic Vehicle Licensing and the motorists franchise of the new Direct.gov service. It continues to form the strategic basis for enabling the Agencies within the Group to work closely together to deliver improved customer service, greater efficiency and even more effective enforcement.

Freight Facilities Grant

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much track access grant aid was paid to freight operators, broken down by company, in each year since 2001–02 *(a)* at current prices and *(b)* at outturn prices. [180878]

Mr. McNulty: The aggregate of track access grant payments by year is provided below. Details by operator are confidential.

Year	*Constant prices £ million (2003–04 as base year)*	*Outturn prices £ million*
2001–02	21.1	19.9
2002–03	21.6	20.8
2003–04	16.8	16.8

Hazard Perception Testing

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the introduction of hazard perception testing for accredited driving instructors. [181045]

Mr. Jamieson: Hazard perception testing has been part of the qualification process for learner car, lorry and bus drivers, motorcyclists and prospective driving instructors and examiners since November 2002. We are planning to introduce HPT, along with multiple-choice questions of knowledge and understanding, into the assessment of registered driving instructors later this year.

The periodic re-assessment of driving instructors is already provided for in their registration scheme. We shall use the modern, computer-based assessment to check that instructors have kept up to date with the modern syllabus for learning to drive and can demonstrate high levels of hazard perception skills.

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of hazard perception testing in improving road safety. [181047]

Mr. Jamieson: Hazard perception testing for learner car, lorry and bus drivers, motorcyclists and prospective driving instructors and examiners was introduced in November 2002 as part of the qualifying theory test. Research was undertaken over a 10 year period by the Transport Research Laboratory in advance of introduction of the test into the importance of hazard awareness in collision prevention. This indicated that performance in tests of hazard perception improved as experience is gained and that three hours of focused training could improve a new driver's hazard awareness to the average of experienced drivers.

While it is too early to make an assessment on the effect of introducing the test on the number of road casualties, recent research involving test candidates indicates that their perception is that the test will be beneficial for road safety.

Hazardous Loads (Incidents)

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list occasions on which an incident occurred involving trains or road vehicles carrying *(a)* hazardous substances and *(b)* nuclear flasks since 2000–01. [180852]

Mr. Jamieson: The number of road incidents, relating to the carriage of hazardous substances, that were notified to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 for the past three years is:

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Overturning or serious damage to a tank while conveying by road prescribed dangerous substances, or the uncontrolled release or fire involving the substance being conveyed	30	23	25
Uncontrolled release or escape of a dangerous substance, or a fire involving the dangerous substance, when being conveyed by road in a vehicle	48	72	64

Additionally there were two rail incidents recorded one in each of the years 2000–01 and 2001–02, relating to the carriage of dangerous goods (hazardous substances). Figures for 2003–04 are not yet available.

The incidents involving the transport of irradiated nuclear fuel flasks (including empty flasks) by rail were as follows:

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Low speed collisions and derailments	1	0	1
Excess surface contamination	12	16	2
Other non-compliancies (including documentation errors)	2	2	1

There were no incidents involving the transport of such flasks by road.

Reports on accidents and incidents involving the transport of radioactive material in the UK, by all modes of transport, for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 are in the House Library and on the Departmental website. The report covering events during 2003 will be published in late 2004 and the report for events this year will be published in late 2005.

Island Line

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of Island

Line following *(a)* the termination of the current franchise in 2007 and *(b)* the end of life of the existing 1938 rolling stock. [181675]

Mr. McNulty: The Island Line franchise runs to 2007, and the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) is considering requirements beyond that date. The line has been proposed as a pilot project under the SRA's recently launched strategy for Community Rail Development, and this may be reflected in the specification for the franchise beyond 2007. The rolling stock has just received a major overhaul and should be adequate until the franchise is re-let.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to change the per passenger subsidy to Island Line. [181677]

Mr. McNulty: No. The Island Line franchise runs to 2007 and subsidy payments are contractually committed until then. The Strategic Rail Authority is considering requirements beyond that date.

Local Transport Plans

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities have set targets for the overall level of road traffic in their area as part of their full local transport plans; and what targets were set in each case for traffic reduction, in each year since the Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997 came into force. [180863]

Mr. McNulty: There has only been one round of production of local transport plans since the Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997 came into force. The following local authorities have set targets to reduce overall levels of road traffic in their area as part of their full local transport plan:

Local authority	*Target*
Greater Nottingham	Restrict traffic growth to 5 per cent. between 2001–06
Durham	Restrict growth to 0.33 per cent. by 2006
Hartlepool	Limit growth to 5 per cent. between 2000 and 2005
Northumberland	Reduce the rate of growth to 13 per cent. by 201 1
Redcar and Cleveland	Maximum of 1 per cent. growth in traffic flows
Tyne and Wear	Limit growth to 2.524bn vehicle kilometres by 2006
Stockton-on-Tees	Limit growth to 4.5 per cent. between 2000 and 2005
Cheshire	Restrict growth to 15 per cent. between 1995 and 2011
Greater Manchester	Restrict growth to 8 per cent. by 2005–06
Lancashire	Restrict growth to less than 5 per cent. between 2001–06
Merseyside	Maximum growth of 20.8 per cent. by 2006
Warrington	43 per cent. reduction in growth by 2011
Bracknell Forest	Restrict growth to 14 per cent. by 2006
Hampshire	Halve forecast rate of growth by 2020 to 21 per cent.
Oxfordshire	Restrict growth to 1 per cent. per annum between 2000–15
Slough	Restrict growth to 0.6 per cent. per annum
Surrey	Restrict traffic growth to 0.6 per cent. by 2016
West Sussex	Restrict rate of growth by 50 per cent. by 2016
Windsor and Maidenhead	Restrict increase in growth to 6 per cent. by 2006
Bournemouth and Poole	Reduce traffic growth by 50 per cent. by 2006
Bristol	Reduce traffic growth by 20 per cent. by 2005
Gloucestershire	15 per cent. maximum traffic growth by 2006
South Gloucestershire	Limit growth to 7 per cent. by 2006
Stoke-on-Trent	Restrict traffic growth to 10 per cent. between 1999 and 2011
Telford and Wrekin	Reduce traffic growth by 1.6 per cent. a year by 2010
West Midlands	Restrict traffic growth to between 10 per cent. to 13.5 per cent. by 2006
Kingston-on-Hull	Reduce traffic growth by 1 per cent. per annum
North East Lincolnshire	Zero growth in traffic levels by 2010
South Yorkshire	Keep traffic levels at cordons to maximum of 713,053 vehicles
West Yorkshire	Traffic growth to not exceed 5 per cent. by 2006.

Motorcycling

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* benefits and *(b)* value for money of each of the motorcycling task groups; what the outcome of each task group was; and when the task groups met. [180880]

Mr. Jamieson: The Advisory Group on Motorcycling established five task forces to consider integration and traffic management, vehicle safety and security, environmental and fiscal issues, research, and statistics. They have been meeting as necessary since 1999. Their initial work was detailed in the Interim Report of the Advisory Group on Motorcycling published in April 2001 (and placed in the House Library).

The work of the Advisory Group is nearing completion and its final report will be published during summer. The task forces will be making recommendations to Government based on the outcome of their work; these will be included in the report. However it would be difficult to assess the value for money of the task forces. The nature of their work does not involve specific costs and benefits which can be quantified. But the work of the Advisory Group is highly valued by Government arid will be an essential input to the Government's future motorcycling strategy.

National Travel Survey

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average *(a)* number and *(b)* distance of trips calculated by the National Travel Survey was by

(i) car driver, (ii) car passenger, (iii) bus, (iv) walking and (v) other modes of transport broken down by (A) commuting, (B) business, (C) education, (D) escort education, (E) shopping and (F) other reasons, broken down by (1) sex and (2) those (aa) under 17 years, (bb) 17 to 29 years, (cc) 30 to 49 years, (dd) 50 to 59 years and (ee) over 60 years in the most recent three-year period for which results are available. [180823]

Mr. McNulty: A summary of the information for 1999–2001 will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The sample sizes of the National Travel Survey are too small to provide a full breakdown at the requested level of detail.

Oil Transfers (Lyme Bay)

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 71W, on Oil Transfers (Lyme Bay), how many individual transfers of oil took place for each vessel off the coast of South Devon in Lyme Bay in each of the last 10 years. [178920]

Mr. Jamieson: Each ship to ship transfer operation before 2003 involved a single transfer of oil from one ship to another. The three transfers in 2003 involved 16 individual transfers of oil and 19 separate ships.

Pay Rates (Ships)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the levels of payment for ratings working on UK-registered ships. [181440]

Mr. Jamieson: Subject to the provisions of the national minimum wage, rates of pay are matters for negotiation between employers and employees.

Ports (Security)

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many official breaches of security have taken place at UK ports in each year since 2003, broken down by port and type of breach. [180888]

Mr. Jamieson: It is not the practice to disclose such security information.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the enforcement notices under provisions of the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990 which have been served on UK harbour authorities and harbour operators since 1 January 2003; and what the reasons were in each case for serving the notice. [180889]

Mr. Jamieson: No enforcement notices have been issued since 1 January 2003.

Press Releases

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions press releases have been released on behalf of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Highways Agency, *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive, *(d)* other departmental agencies and *(e)* other transport non-departmental public bodies by the Government News Network North East in each year since 2002, broken down by those releases which are (i) regionally generated and (ii) despatched for the national department. [180855]

Mr. McNulty: Press releases have been issued by the Government News Network North East on behalf of the Department for Transport, the Highways Agency, the Health and Safety Executive and other departmental agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 2002 as follows:

2002

Department	*Total dispatched*	*Regionally generated*	*Dispatched regionally for national Department*
Department for Transport[1]	62	28	34
Highways Agency	54	43	11
HSE	55	27	18
Other agencies	10	10	—
Other non-departmental bodies	—	—	—
Total	181	108	63

[1] Includes transport releases while as part of the former DTLR.

2003

Department	*Total dispatched*	*Regionally generated*	*Dispatched regionally for national Department*
Department for Transport	36	13	23
Highways Agency	62	56	6
HSE	51	31	20
Other agencies	12	9	3
Other non-departmental bodies	—	—	—
Total	161	109	52

2004 (January to May)

Department	*Total dispatched*	*Regionally generated*	*Dispatched regionally for national Department*
Department for Transport	26	17	9
Highways Agency	33	22	11
HSE	26	14	12
Other agencies	9	5	4
Other non-departmental bodies	—	—	—
Total	94	58	36

Quality Partnerships

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many quality partnerships are in operation, broken down by local authority area. [181270]

Mr. McNulty: All quality partnerships currently in operation are voluntary agreements, which do not need to be notified to central Government, as distinct from statutory schemes made under the Transport Act 2000, which need to be registered with the traffic commissioner for the relevant area. There is no agreed definition of a non-statutory quality partnership and some partnership agreements cover more than one area or corridor. Comprehensive information is therefore not available. However, a survey in 2001 found that quality partnership schemes existed or were being developed in 65 of the 85 local transport authority areas of England. The number may well have increased since 2001.

The first statutory quality partnership schemes under the Transport Act 2000 are expected to come into operation later this year.

Railways

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times each rail franchise holder has asked to exceed the prescribed maximum journey times; how many times these requests have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* denied; and if he will list the approvals granted. [180822]

Mr. McNulty: The answer in the format requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Train operating companies (TOCs) confirm to the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) that their bid for timetabling paths delivers the passenger service requirement (PSR), which specifies maximum journey times. TOCs may seek derogations from the SRA where elements of the PSR cannot be delivered. The SRA reviews and considers each derogation request on its merits.

Minor compromises to the TOCs bids are also made by Network Rail which can extend the journey times by small amounts in defined circumstances. The SRA's contract with TOCs permits this to happen without permission and such incidences are numerous. On occasions this may cause a journey time to be extended beyond the maximum specified in the PSR.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidences of arson on the railways there were in each month since March 2003, broken down by *(a)* train operating company and *(b)* location. [180741]

Mr. McNulty: The British Transport Police have provided the following figures which cover incidences of arson in England, Scotland and Wales.

Such offences cover: (i) building works; (ii) rolling stock; (iii) endangering life; and (iv) other.

Scotland uses the term "fire-raising" rather than "arson" when recording such crimes. The British Transport Police are unable to provide these figures by TOC or location.

Monthly crime figures:

April 2003	52
May 2003	19
June 2003	32
July 2003	39
August 2003	38
September 2003	50
October 2003	39
November 2003	27
December 2003	31
January 2004	22
February 2004	36
March 2004	33
Total 2003–04	418

April 2004	31
May 2004	28
Total (2 month)	59

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Rail Passenger Partnership. [180744]

Mr. McNulty: The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) suspended the Rail Passenger Partnership (RPP) scheme to new bids in January 2003 for budgetary reasons. All contractually committed schemes are being honoured. These represent a total SRA commitment of more than £80m in RPP funding since the scheme was launched in November 1999.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the Strategic Rail Authority Performance Fund schemes *(a)* which have commenced, *(b)* where feasibility studies (i) have been completed and (ii) are continuing, *(c)* which have been placed on hold and *(d)* have been cancelled, indicating in each case funding from the Strategic Rail Authority (A) awarded, (B) approved and (C) projected in 2004–05. [180745]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following tables. Feasibility studies were completed for each scheme. No schemes have been cancelled.

Rail Performance Fund Schemes—Approved/commenced

£

Project	*Sponsor*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*Total*
Modification package to Class 158 vehicles	Scotrail	750,000	550,000	—	1,300,000
Fitment of sanders to Class 156	Central	29,611	52,368	—	81,979
Integrated Network Control Infrastructure (INCI) start-up funding	SWT	587,500	0	—	587,500
Brighton to Balcombe Route upgrade	NR	732,134	0	—	732,134
Compass upgrade	FGE	64,100	0	—	64,100
Additional Platform at Swindon (Platform 4)					
Long lead items	FGW	160,000	0	—	160,000
Goods loop design	NR	200,000	0	—	200,000
Construction	NR	4,881,290	628,500	290,000	5,799,790
TMIS for Bristol Temple Meads	Wessex	6,454	0	—	6,454
Class 321 door relays	FGE	27,105	201,250	—	228,355
Guilford north sidings electrification	NR	76,175	0	—	76,175
Class 507/508 axle 3 sanders	ATN	0	769,100	—	769,100
Replacement of windscreen wipers to entire DMU fleet	W&B	0	125,000	—	125,000
Replacement of windscreen wipers to entire DMU fleet	Wessex	0	104,000	—	104,000
Total		7,514,369	2,430,218	290,000	10,234,587

Deferred Rail Performance Fund Schemes

Project	*Sponsor*	*Status*
Acton Yard remodelling	EWS/NR	Deferred due to RPF suspension
Feasibility study		
Construction		
Earlswood Crossover Enhanced Renewal	NR	Deferred due to RPF suspension
FGW—HST air supply system upgrade	FGW	Deferred due to RPF suspension
Power supply reliability and reinstatement	FNW/NR	Deferred due to RPF suspension
Raynes Park Turnback Facility	NR	Deferred due to RPF suspension
SWT—New footbridge at Wimbledon	SWT	Insufficient information/RPF suspended
Shelters at key stations	SWT	Insufficient information/RPF suspended
Diverse Routing for TDM Telecom Circuits	Virgin/NR	Insufficient information/RPF suspended
WAGN—Class 317 traction motor modification	WAGN	Deferred due to RPF suspension

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the total level of Rail Passenger Partnership funding *(a)* paid in 2003–04 and *(b)* to be paid in 2004–05 by the Strategic Rail Authority, with particular reference to the nature of the schemes to which such funding would be directed. [180749]

Mr. McNulty: £19,957,913 was paid in 2003–04, and £21,450,191 is contractually committed to be paid in 2004–05. The funding assists new or enhanced passenger rail services and facilities which contribute to the Government's wider objectives, including modal shift and integration with other modes, but which typically are not able to earn commercial returns.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much new rolling stock was ordered in each year since 2001 for each train operating company, broken down by type; [180841]

(2) what types of and how much new rolling stock have been ordered in each year since 2002 by each train operating company. [180879]

Mr. McNulty: The following tables show the new rolling stock that has been ordered since 2001 by train operator and type.

2001

Operator	*Number of vehicles*	*Type of vehicle*
Arriva Trains Northern	8	Electric multiple unit
Chiltern	7	Diesel multiple unit
Great Eastern	84	Electric multiple unit
Midland Main Line	10	Diesel multiple unit
South Central	240	Electric multiple unit
South West Trains	785	Electric multiple unit

2002

Operator	*Number of vehicles*	*Type of vehicle*
Great Eastern	8	Diesel multiple unit
South Eastern Trains	408	Electric multiple unit
Midland Main Line	127	Diesel multiple unit
South Central	460	Electric multiple unit

2003

Operator	*Number of vehicles*	*Type of vehicle*
Chiltern	6	Diesel multiple unit
Scotrail	87	Diesel multiple unit
South Central	42	Diesel multiple unit
Transpennine	153	Diesel multiple unit

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what powers the Rail Regulator has to oblige train operating companies to make working toilets available to passengers on trains; and what regulations exist to oblige train operating companies to make working toilets available to passengers on trains; [180842]

(2) what powers the Strategic Rail Authority has to oblige train operating companies to making working toilets available to passengers on trains. [180843]

Mr. McNulty: Neither the Rail Regulator nor the Strategic Rail Authority has specific powers to oblige operators to provide toilets on trains. It would be inappropriate to give them such powers when not all rolling stock is fitted with toilets. Operators will, however, make the most of their commercial opportunities only where they meet the demands of passengers. Where toilets are provided on trains they are subject to normal environmental health requirements.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many broken rails there were on Britain's railways in each year since 2000–01. [180845]

Mr. McNulty: Network Rail advises that the annual totals of broken rails are as follows:

	Number
2000–01	706
2001–02	536
2002–03	444
2003–04	334

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the use of special purpose vehicles for securing third party investment in major infrastructure works on the railway; and what projects are *(a)* under way and *(b)* proposed. [180858]

Mr. McNulty: Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) are developed to take forward particular infrastructure upgrades. The Chiltern Line upgrade has been taken forward in this way and it is proposed that in future such schemes as the East London Line project will also be taken forward by an SPV.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of trains running into *(a)* cows, *(b)* horses and *(c)* other animals where the animals were subsequently (i) killed, (ii) injured and (iii) retrieved from railway lines there were in each year since 2001–02. [180859]

Mr. McNulty: The Health and Safety Executive (USE) has provided the following information on the number of incidents involving trains striking animals for the period 1 April 2001–31 March 2004 in the table below:

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04[1]
Cows	50	57	36
Horses	6	7	5
Other Animals	50	47	34
Total	106	111	75

[1] Provisional figures

The data is based on trains striking animals on the railway network, reportable by the railways to HSE's Railway Inspectorate (HMRI) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). Under RIDDOR the railways are required to report all incidents of a train striking a cow or horse, and for all other animals, where the train sustains damage requiring immediate or temporary repairs. There is no requirement under RIDDOR to report if the animal was killed or injured or if retrieved from the line. Trains only resume their journeys when it is safe to do so.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* warning letters and *(b)* enforcement notices have been given by the Health and Safety Executive to (i) Railtrack and (ii) train operating companies for each year since 2001–02, broken down by type. [180865]

Mr. McNulty: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises that warning letters are not a formal enforcement tool and that it is not possible to provide figures for the number of letters it has written to railway dutyholders raising issues that need to be addressed as HSE corresponds with dutyholders on a range of issues and such letters are not separately identified.

The HSE's Railway Inspectorate has issued the following number of enforcement notices each year since 2001–02:

	(i) Railtrack plc/ network rail	(ii) Train operating companies
2001–02	51	58
2002–03	46	33
2003–04	26	16

HSE describes some of its enforcement activities in its Annual Reports on Railway Safety, copies of which are available from the House Library. HSE plans to publish its Annual Report on Railway Safety for 2003–04 in the autumn.

Details of these enforcement notices are publicly available on HSE's website at http://www.hse-databases.co.uk/notices/.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve the arrangements by which train operating companies *(a)* purchase and *(b)* lease rolling stock from rolling stock companies. [180866]

Mr. McNulty: Whether changes are needed to the present arrangements in this area is among the issues being considered as part of the rail review announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 19 January.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the total length of track on the rail network which has been replaced was in each year since 2000 *(a)* in total, *(b)* subdivided by zonal area and *(c)* subdivided by train operating company area; [180867]

(2) how many speed restrictions on railways there were for each month since June 2001 *(a)* in total and *(b)* subdivided by zonal area; [180872]

(3) what the length of railway track not meeting the minimum required standard for each year since 1997 was *(a)* in total and *(b)* subdivided by zonal area; [180873]

(4) how many reported signal failures there were on the railway infrastructure controlled by Railtrack for each month since November 2001. [180874]

Mr. McNulty: These are operational matters for Network Rail. I have passed these questions to Network Rail, for them to respond directly to the hon. Member.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will state, for each train operating company *(a)* when the franchise was first renewed, *(b)* the length of the original franchise awarded, *(c)* the dates on which the franchise has since been awarded, *(d)* when the franchise is next due to be awarded and *(e)* details of changes in the ownership which have taken place since the franchise was first awarded. [180875]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will place in the Library the number of each different type of rolling stock in use by each train operator, indicating those which are Mark 1 slam door vehicles; [180876]

(2) what the current life expiry of rolling stock on the network is, broken down by *(a)* vehicle type, *(b)* number of vehicles and *(c)* franchises. [180909]

Mr. McNulty: The life of rolling stock can change for a number of reasons. Major refurbishments and mandatory modifications are examples. It is therefore impossible to be certain about the last date of a vehicle's operation. The table, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House, nevertheless shows the date when vehicles are currently expected to be removed from passenger service.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* passengers in excess of capacity and *(b)* total number of passengers figure was (i) for each London commuting service train operator, and (ii) in total, broken down into (A) am peak, (B) pm peak and (C) total; and what the total number was of peak passengers into London for (1) am peak, (2) pm peak and (3) in total for each London commuting service train operator as measured in the annual surveys since 2001. [180905]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Roads

Mr. Flook: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many closures there were on *(a)* the M5 south of junction 25 and *(b)* the A303 west of Ilminster, Somerset in each of the last five years; and what the (i) location and (ii) duration was in each case. [180963]

Mr. Jamieson: During each of the last five years the following unplanned closures were reported to the Highways Agency by the Police.

	(a) M5 South of Junction 25	*(b) A303/A30 West of Ilminster to Exeter*
2004	—	1
2003	2	5
2002	2	8
2001	5	5
2000	3	3
Total	12	22

The location and duration of each closure where recorded was—*(a)* M5

	Location	*Duration*
18 August 2000	N/B J29–28	1 hour 55 minutes
14 September 2000	N/B J27–26	Not recorded
25 October 2000	N/BJ27–26	Approx 8 hours
12 January 2001	S/BJ25–26	Not recorded
17 March 2001	S/B J28–29	2 hours 10 minutes
19 March 2001	S/B J25–26	3 hours
7 August 2001	S/B J26–27	Not recorded
12 November 2001	N/BJ26–25	Not recorded
8 January 2002	N/B and S/B J26–27	Approx 7 hours 30 minutes to 8 hours
1 July 2002	N/B J27–26	Not recorded
12 June 2003	N/B J28–27	2 hours 45 minutes
24 November 2003	N/BJ25	4 hours 30 minutes

(b) A303/A30

	Location	*Duration*
27 February 2000	A303 Southfields to Eagle Cross	Not recorded
11 March 2000	A30 (E/B) East of Ironbridge	3 hours 35 minutes
9 June 2000	A30 (E/B) Exeter Airport	55 minutes
8 March 2001	A30 (W/B) Ironbridge	6 hours 30 minutes
3 August 2001	A30 Monkton	Approx 4 hours
30 September 2001	A303 Stopgate Cross to Marsh	11 hours
3 October 2001	A30 (W/B) Daisymount	3 hours 20 minutes
24 November 2001	A303 Longlie Common - Stopgate Cross	Not recorded
8 March 2002	A30 Monkton	Not recorded
11 March 2002	A30 (W/B) East of Exeter Airport Junction	2 hours 5 minutes
5 May 2002	A303 Stopgate Cross	Not recorded
9 June 2002	A303 Southfield roundabout to Eagle Tavern	Not recorded
21 June 2002	A303 near Marsh	Not known
18 July 2002	A30 Turk's Head to Monkton	1 hour 30 minutes
26 August 2002	A303 Horton Bypass	Not recorded
13 November 2002	A30 (W/B) west of Honiton	10 hours
15 January 2003	A30 (W/B) Daisymount	2 hours
19 February 2003	A30 (W/B and E/B) Daisymount to Sowton	50 minutes
14 May 2003	A30Monkton	4 hours
13 November 2003	A30 (W/B) Pattersons Cross	1 hour
14 December 2003	A30 Rawridge Hill	6 hours
23 March 2004	A30 (W/B) East of Exeter Airport Junction	8 hours 30 minutes

(It is likely that unrecorded closures would have been for a duration of at least 1 hour).

The Highways Agency are notified of closures by the Police and may not be aware of all closures if the Police dealt with it themselves.

There will have been some closures or partial closures that were planned (eg for scheduled maintenance) but it has not been possible to obtain this information in the time available.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of road accidents in 2003 were caused by *(a)* people driving without insurance, *(b)* people in cars without a valid MOT certificate, *(c)* cars not licensed, *(d)* people driving while disqualified or without valid licences, *(e)* drivers under the influence of drugs, *(f)* drivers under the influence of alcohol, *(g)* drivers who had fallen asleep at the wheel and *(h)* drivers driving stolen vehicles. [181498]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 29 June 2004]*: Routine statistics do not record the primary cause of a road accident. However, research conducted on behalf of the Department for Transport has estimated on the basis of limited information that just over 3 per cent. of all personal injury crashes involve a driver subsequently prosecuted for unlicensed driving, which included driving while disqualified.

Research also indicates that driver fatigue accounts for about 10 per cent. of all accidents on the road network in Great Britain. Under a pilot scheme some police forces have provided information on the factors that may have contributed to an accident. The data provided for 2003 indicates that in 1 per cent. of accidents within the pilot scheme driver fatigue was a contributory factor. This data is based on the opinions of police officers or, in the case of accidents reported by a member of the public at a police station, determined from the description of the accident. This pilot scheme also indicates that driver impairment due to drugs was a contributory factor in 1 per cent. of all accidents.

Provisional estimates for 2002 indicate that 6 per cent. of all accidents involved a driver who had blood alcohol levels in excess of the legal limit.

Information on accidents caused by people driving without insurance, a valid MOT certificate, driving in unlicensed cars, or drivers of stolen vehicles is not recorded in the national accident data collection system and therefore the data is not available.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* kilometres of local roads, *(b)* bridges and *(c)* footways have been restored by local authorities using money in the Local Transport Plan settlement for capital maintenance work on local highways for (i) 2002–03 and (ii) 2003-04 (A) in total and (B) for each local authority. [180847]

Mr. Jamieson: These figures are not available for England. Progress in restoring local roads and footways is measured by Best Value Performance Indicators and in restoring bridges by the outstanding numbers of bridges requiring strengthening or major maintenance. I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses two tables showing the latest information for English local highway authorities outside London as contained in the annual progress reports on Local Transport Plans submitted in July 2003.

Highway maintenance in London is a matter for the Mayor and the Greater London Assembly. In Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales it is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to local authorities was of road maintenance and repair in each financial year since 2000–01 in respect of *(a)* flood and *(b)* other damage (i) in total and (ii) for each local authority. [180848]

Mr. Jamieson: In England, this information is not collected on an annual basis. However, reports were collated on the exceptional flood damage to highways in 2001, and on the drought damage in 2003, from local highway authorities that considered that they were significantly affected. In both cases these figures were used to calculate assistance for those worst affected. The reported damage per authority and the national totals are shown in the two tables as follows.

Flood and other damage to roads in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is a matter for the devolved administrations.

Flood damage to bridges and roads in 2001

Authority	*Reported flood damage (£000)*
Kent	7,060
Hampshire	6,531
North Yorkshire	3,275
Surrey	3,204
Devon	2,700
West Sussex	2,642
East Sussex	2,505
Gloucestershire	2,405
Wiltshire	2,365
Herefordshire	1,640
Northumberland	1,497
Shropshire	1,453
Hertfordshire	1,275
Oldham	1,199
Dorset	817
Telford and Wrekin	748
West Berkshire	557
Brighton and Hove	510
Durham	508
Redcar and Cleveland	430
City of Derby	319

Flood damage to bridges and roads in 2001

Authority	*Reported flood damage (£000)*
Medway Towns	302
Transport for London	300
Lincolnshire	286
South Gloucestershire	210
Somerset	207
Leeds	155
Hartlepool	144
Richmond	130
Enfield	104
Total	45,478

Drought damage to roads in 2003

Authority	*Reported drought damage (£000)*
Lincolnshire	7,397
Essex	5,614
East Sussex	5,568
Kent	4,167
Cambridgeshire	3,522
Hampshire	3,030
Peterborough	2,400
West Sussex	2,221
Isle of Wight	1,500
Wiltshire	1,302
Buckinghamshire	1,200
Surrey	1,000
Suffolk	750
Norfolk	650
Bedfordshire	300
Total	40,621

The Department for Transport does not keep records relating to schemes of this type delivered before 2001–02.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the *(a)* Quiet Lane and *(b)* Homezone projects across England that are fully operational. [180849]

Mr. Jamieson: Local Transport Authorities in England outside London have reported the delivery of Quiet Lane and Home Zone schemes in Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Reports, as follows:

	Year of scheme delivery	
	2001–02	*2002–03*
Quiet lanes		
Derbyshire	0	1
Hartlepool	0	1
Lancashire	0	18
Kent	6	2
Oxfordshire	0	19
Surrey	1	0
Shropshire	0	3
Telford and Wrekin	1	0
Total	8	44
Home zones		
Hertfordshire	1	0
Suffolk	0	1
Nottingham City	2	
Nottinghamshire	2	0
Durham	0	1
North Tyneside	1	0

	Year of scheme delivery	
	2001–02	2002–03
Blackburn with Darwen	0	1
Cheshire	0	1
Cumbria	0	1
Manchester CC	1	2
St. Helens	1	0
Trafford	0	1
Hampshire	1	0
Kent	0	2
Portsmouth	1	0
Surrey	0	1
Bristol	1	1
Devon	0	1
Gloucestershire	0	1
Plymouth	1	0
Shropshire	0	2
Warwickshire	0	1
Wolverhampton	0	1
Leeds	1	0
York	1	1
Total	14	19

The Department for Transport does not keep records relating to schemes of this type delivered before 2001–02 delivered before 2001–02

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road building schemes using the design, build, finance and operate contracting method are *(a)* completed and *(b)* under construction; what the estimated cost to public funds is for each project over the lifetime of the DBFO contract; and if he will make a statement. [180881]

Mr. Jamieson: My Department has awarded 10 Design Build Finance and Operate contracts of which two are under construction and eight have been completed. The estimated cost to public funds over the life of the 10 projects are:

Project	*Estimated Cost £ million*
Completed projects	
M1-A1	232
A1(M) Cambs	154
A417/A419	112
A69	62
M40	182
A19	136
A50	67
A30/A35	148
Projects under construction	
A1(M) Yorkshire	210
A249	100

The above figures are Net Present Values calculated at the time of contract award.

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the works on the A36 (T) at Skew Bridge, Salisbury have overrun; when they will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [180779]

Mr. Jamieson: Work on the A36 Skew Bridge upgrading work commenced in June 2003. New structures are being installed on either side of the existing bridge to improve safety by providing new footways, cycle track and stronger parapets.

A number of factors have delayed work. There was a delay of three months owing to unexpected poor ground conditions which necessitated significant redesign work and the need for strengthening works. High winds have also restricted planned operations of the crane, further delaying the progress of the work.

The layout of the site is very confined. This dictates a strict sequence of operations and restricts the number of people that can work on the site at one time. For health and safety reasons, many tasks can only be carried out when both road and rail traffic are completely suspended. This relies on the agreement of Network Rail to close the railway line. To minimise disruption these closures only take place during off peak periods. The setting up and dismantling of heavy equipment on the road requires a length of time which is generally only available at weekends.

All critical structural operations have now been completed and it is hoped the projectwill finish before the end of September.

Shipping Employment

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the overall change in the number of British seafarers employed in UK shipping has been as a result of the Government's measures introduced under their policy Charting a New Course. [182021]

Mr. Jamieson: "British Shipping: Charting a New Course" was published in 1998. It led to the introduction of a number of innovative measures aimed at halting the decline in the UK shipping industry, including Tonnage Tax in 2000.

Shipping is a global, competitive industry and changes in UK seafarer numbers cannot be attributed to the Government's policy measures alone. However, the latest available figures (contained in the London Metropolitan University's 'United Kingdom Seafarer's Analysis 2003') show that although the number of UK active seafarers had declined from approximately 30,000 in 1997 to 25,000 in 2001, it had increased to 28,000 by 2003.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will make a statement on the employment trends of British seafarers over the last seven years; [182272]

(2) what effect the tonnage tax scheme has had on employment levels among British seafarers; and if he will make a statement. [182273]

Mr. Jamieson: The tonnage tax, which was introduced in the Finance Act 2000, is part of the Government's strategy for halting the decline in the UK shipping industry. Around 12,500 seafarers (officers and ratings) are employed on ships in the tonnage tax. Approximately 39 per cent. of all of these seafarers, and nearly 50 per cent. of the officers, are UK nationals.

Shipping is, however, a global, competitive industry and UK seafarer employment levels are influenced by factors other than the tonnage tax. The latest available

figures (contained in the London Metropolitan University's 'United Kingdom Seafarer's Analysis 2003') show that although the number of UK active seafarers had declined from approximately 30,000 in 1997 to 25,000 in 2001, it had increased to 28,000 by 2003.

Speed Cameras

Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason speed cameras are not installed on motorways as a routine safety measure on the same basis as other roads. [181441]

Mr. Jamieson: The deployment of safety cameras on motorways is governed by the same rules as those on other parts of the network. Motorways, being relatively safer than the rest of the road network due to the separation of opposing traffic streams and the limited amount of vulnerable users, present fewer locations that meet the criteria. However, cameras are used at locations where the speed limit has been reduced for reasons of safety, including road maintenance sites where they enforce temporary speed limits put in place for the protection of road users and workers alike.

Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the new system for speed camera penalties linking penalty points to the scale of the excess speed will be introduced. [181442]

Mr. Jamieson: We are planning to consult on a more flexible system of fines for speeding to reflect better the levels of risk to road safety. Changes to the penalty fine system for speeding offences would require legislation.

Strategic Rail Authority

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the winner was of the Strategic Rail Authority's freight innovation competition; by when the winning scheme was required to be operational; what progress has been made to date with the winning scheme; and if he will make a statement. [180903]

Mr. McNulty: The three winners of the Strategic Rail Authority's Innovative Solutions in Rail-Based Logistics competition are listed in the SRA's 2001 Freight Strategy. Each had contractual milestones to reach. All three have delivered on them. Details are as follows:

Blue Circle Consortium: This project commenced its contracted period of two year operational trials in July 2003. On-going evaluation is taking place.

Exel: This project has been completed. Technical trials with a number of end user customers took place during 2001–02 as specified with the project demonstrating the potential viability and market attractiveness of a freight multiple unit concept.

Minimodal: The equipment has been developed. Operational trials began in May 2003 and are on-going. The company is in negotiation with potential clients to commence full scale commercial operation later this year.

Ten-year Transport Plan

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library an updated copy of Table A3 from the 10-year transport plan *(a)* at outturn prices and *(b)* at today's prices. [180853]

Mr. McNulty: Table A1.1 'Delivering Better Transport: Progress Report (December 2002)' updates Table A3 from the 'Transport 2010: The 10 Year Plan' in outturn prices. Table A1.1 is reproduced below for reference. These indicative spending plans are being reviewed in the context of the Spending Review 2004 and the review and roll forward of the 10 Year Plan.

Table A1.1: 10 Year Plan—public spending and private investment, 2001–02 to 2010–11
Decisions about allocations from 2006–07 onwards, in particular the use of unallocated provision, will be taken in the light of the review and roll-forward of the 10 Year Plan

(£ billion, rounded)

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*	*2006–07*
Public investment expenditure	4.2	5.6	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.4
Of which:						
Strategic roads	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.9
Railways	0.9	1.4	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.7
Local transport	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.1
London excluding LUL	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7
LUL	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Unallocated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Public resource expenditure	5.3	5.8	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.2
Of which:						
Strategic roads	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.4
Railways	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.5
Local transport	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Local authority revenue	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
London excluding LUL	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
London LA revenue	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
LUL	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Other	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total public expenditure	9.5	11.4	13.2	13.6	14.2	14.6
Of which:						
Strategic roads	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2
Railways	2.1	2.8	3.8	3.8	4.3	4.2

Table A1.1: 10 Year Plan—public spending and private investment, 2001–02 to 2010–11
Decisions about allocations from 2006–07 onwards, in particular the use of unallocated provision, will be taken in the light of the review and roll-forward of the 10 Year Plan

(£ billion, rounded)

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*	*2006–07*
Local transport	4.0	4.4	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.3
London excluding LUL	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.5
LUL	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Other	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Unallocated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Private investment	4.3	4.9	5.9	6.2	5.7	5.9
Of which:						
Strategic roads	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
Railways	3.4	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.2	3.1
Local transport	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0
London	0.2	0.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Public spending from local charging revenue	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Less: Public expenditure supporting private investment	-0.2	-0.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.7	-2.0
Net total	13.7	16.0	17.8	18.5	18.3	18.7

(£ billion, rounded)

	2007–08	*2008–09*	*2009–10*	*2010–11*	*10 Year Plan totals*
Public investment expenditure	6.8	7.1	7.5	7.5	63.7
Of which:					
Strategic roads	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	9.9
Railways	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	19.2
Local transport	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	19.0
London excluding LUL	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	7.3
LUL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8
Unallocated	0.7	1.5	2.0	1.9	6.2
Public resource expenditure	8.3	8.7	8.9	9.1	76.8
Of which:					
Strategic roads	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	12.3
Railways	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	13.8
Local transport	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	5.3
Local authority revenue	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	27.3
London excluding LUL	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	3.5
London LA revenue	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	3.9
LUL	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	9.3
Other	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.3
Total public expenditure	15.2	15.7	16.4	16.6	140.4
Of which:					
Strategic roads	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	22.2
Railways	3.6	2.9	2.7	2.8	33.0
Local transport	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.0	51.6
London excluding LUL	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	14.8
LUL	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	10.5
Other	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.1
Unallocated	0.7	1.5	2.0	1.9	6.2
Private investment	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	56.6
Of which:					
Strategic roads	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	2.5
Railways	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	34.1
Local transport	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	9.0
London	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	11.1
Public spending from local charging revenue	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.3
Less: Public expenditure supporting private investment	-2.3	-2.5	-2.9	-3.1	-17.7
Net total	19.1	19.3	19.6	19.6	180.6

Notes:
1. The net total figures represent the total of public and private investment and public resource expenditure plus public spending funded by local charging revenue. But to avoid double counting, public expenditure which directly supports private investment has been excluded from the net total.

2. All figures are at outturn prices. Totals may not sum owing to rounding.
3. The figures for public investment expenditure consist of expenditure within DfT's Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) and capital grants to the private sector within DfT's Resource DEL. Figures for public resource expenditure consist of the remainder of DfT's Resource DEL and estimates of local authority revenue expenditure.
4. Figures for public expenditure in 2001–02 represent outturn expenditure; for 2002–03 provision; for 2003–04 plans under Spending Review 2002; and for later years, indicative allocations subject to future Spending Reviews.
5. Local authority revenue figures are estimates of local authority transport spending, reflecting Highways Maintenance Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) and an estimated part of EPCS SSA in years up to 2002–03. For later years, the figures represent plans for Highways Maintenance Formula Spending Share (FSS) and an estimated part of EPCS FSS.

Transport Delays

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent *(a)* assessment he has made and *(b)* research he has commissioned into the cost, in terms of (i) customer and (ii) business time and financial impact, of transport delays. [180906]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has recently updated its estimates of the costs of business and other time spent in travelling. These estimates are used to assess whether the benefits that projects and policies can be expected to deliver in terms of reducing delays exceed the costs of the measures proposed. The new values are based on research commissioned from the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds and were published on the Department's website in June 2004.

Transport Projects

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the letters of comfort which have been provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Treasury in relation to transport projects in each year since 2001; and what the (i) nature and (ii) value of the project was in each case. [180887]

Mr. McNulty: A full listing of letters of comfort, which this Department has provided, can be obtained from Note 25 of the published 2002–03 Departmental Resource Accounts. The note gives details on the value as well as nature of the projects.

The Treasury has not provided any letters of comfort in relation to transport projects.

Traveline

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been conducted of the effectiveness of *(a)* the Traveline phone service and *(b)* the traveline.org.uk website; and if he will place copies of related correspondence in the Library. [180850]

Mr. McNulty: The information required is as follows.

(a) The traveline telephone service has been operating since 1 August 2000. In 2003, traveline answered 4.2 million calls. Mystery shopping surveys are conducted twice a year to measure the quality of the service, with the most recent survey giving an overall average score of 88 per cent. for a number of measures, including customer service, detail and accuracy. British Telecom is contracted to measure the quality of the telecommunications of traveline's 23 call-centres—the latest findings showed that the call-centres answered 96.2 per cent. of all calls received. 88.3 per cent. of direct calls and 90.9 per cent. of transfer calls were answered within 30 seconds.

(b) The traveline.org.uk site has been operating since August 2001. While there has been no assessment of the effectiveness of the traveline.org.uk site, the latest figures show that there were 90,582 visits to the site in May 2004.

Truck Security

Mr. Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to the road haulage industry relating to the security of trucks; and if he will make a statement. [181192]

Mr. Jamieson: The Department published in February this year a voluntary Code of Practice for the security of transporting dangerous goods by road. This was developed and agreed by Government, police and industry. It is supported by guidance, which outlines ways in which the provisions of the code could be met and includes measures to improve the security of trucks.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cost Efficiency

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure cost efficiency in purchasing technical cooperation and consultancy; and if he will list the occasions when his Department has used bulk buying to ensure cost efficiency in each of the last three years. [180598]

Hilary Benn: DFID applies the Public Procurement Regulations to purchase consultancy for technical cooperation through fair and transparent international competition. DFID uses appropriate procurement strategies to obtain best value, including collaborative purchasing with other government departments. We do not bulk buy services. We use Framework Agreements with companies and individuals. These allow us to aggregate our predicted requirements and to obtain services when we need them at fair prices with low transaction costs.

A list of all DFID Framework Agreements entered into since April 2001 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Diamonds

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the progress being made by his Department towards the production of an effective monitoring system and codes to ensure that only certified diamonds enter the global diamond market. [181271]

Mr. Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Kimberley Process certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds has been implemented by 43 countries and the European Community since January 2003. Each member of the scheme ensures that it only trades in rough diamonds accompanied by a certificate from the exporting government attesting that the goods are conflict free.

Monitoring of the scheme, to ensure effective internal controls underpinning the national certificate, is via peer review. This includes on the ground inspections, annual self-assessments and the regular exchange of detailed statistical and other data, including on legislative and administrative procedures.

European Development Fund

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the amount of money in the European Development Fund allocated for overseas projects but unspent *(a)* this year and *(b)* last year. [181383]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: EOF programmes are committed and spent over a number of years. The current 9 EOF, which includes uncommitted funds transferred from the 6, 7and 8 EDFs, will finance commitments over the period 2000–07. The overall level of the 9 EDF is €16.2 billion (£10.8 billion), of which €13.5 billion (£9 billion) is new funding and €2.7 billion (£1.8 billion) is transferred from previous EDFs.

In 2003, commitments totalled €4.1 billion (£2.7 billion) with payments amounting to €2.4 billion (£1.6 billion). The EC's latest estimates for 2004 forecast commitments of €3.4 billion (£2.25 billion) and payments of €2.6 billion (£1.7 billion). Commitments and payment levels are expected to remain broadly similar in 2005.

The EC issues calls for member states' contributions to the EDF in three instalments per annum. These are based on the Commission's forecasts of payment requirements and agreed by Council Decision. Member states transfer their funds to the Commission once the level of each overall instalment has been agreed.

Extractive Industries Review

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he will give to implementing the recent extractive industries review for the World Bank; and if he will make a statement. [181977]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member for Leeds, West to the answer given to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 1 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 619W.

DFID is currently studying the World Bank management's response to the Extractive Industries Review (EIR) and will make our position on the EIR recommendations public shortly.

Highly Indebted Poor Countries

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government debt outstanding excluding Export Credits Guarantee Department debt to each country outside the EU and G10 *(a)* was in 1997 and *(b)* is now; and how much debt has been cancelled in each case since the launch of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. [181107]

Hilary Benn: Excluding Export Credits Guarantee Department debt, outstanding debts to the UK Government are either old aid loans or loans formally held by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) which were transferred to DFID when CDC was part-privatised in 1999. Many such loans have already been written off, either under Retrospective Terms Adjustment (RTA)—the policy to forgive loans to low income countries—or under the Commonwealth Debt Initiative (GDI) which was launched to reduce formal government to government debt for low and lower-middle income countries in the Commonwealth. It is also UK policy to write-off 100 per cent. of all bilateral debts for countries when they qualify for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. HIPC debt repayments are suspended at HIPC Decision Point and formally written off at Completion Point.

UK Government debt outstanding on former aid loans to countries outside the EU and G10 was:

(a) on 1 April 1997—£389,627,196 (of which £341,460,302 principal and £48,166,894 interest)

(b) on 1 April 2004—£146,807,222 (of which £132,517,931 principal and £14,289,291 interest)

For accounting purposes, DFID adopts a process of cancelling debts as they become due. This means that some of the debts in the above figures have been officially cancelled but will continue to show up on DFID's accounts until the loans expire. The total amount of former aid loans cancelled under debt initiatives between 1997 and 2004, included in the above figures, is £167,973,700 (of which £143,405,982 principal and £24,567,718 interest). However, since 1997, DFID has committed to cancelling £266,100,904 (of which £233,331,961 principal and £32,768,943 interest) and countries do not have to make repayments on these debts, provided that they remain committed to poverty reduction. I have arranged for a copy of a table to show all former aid loans listed by country to be placed in the Library.

Debts outstanding on loans made by the CDC to countries outside the EU and G10 were:

(a) on 31 December 1997—£283,118,860.52 (of which £275,358,759.57 principal and £7,760,100.95 interest)

(b) on 31 May 2004—£241,608,825.92 (of which £165,957,368.44 principal and £75,631,457.48 interest). Of this total amount, only £96,366,201.28 is live debt, as the remaining £145,242,624.64 has been suspended under RTA, CDI or HIPC.

The total amount of former CDC debt cancelled under debt relief initiatives between 1997 and 2004 is £16,498,403.48. A further £128,761,546.29 has been suspended and will either be formally cancelled when the debtor country reaches HIPC Completion Point or reviewed on a year-by-year basis against the CDI criteria of the debtor Government's commitment to poverty reduction, sound economic policies and good governance. I have arranged for a copy of two tables entitled 'CDC loans in 1997 and in 2004' listed by country and an explanation of the amounts cancelled

and suspended to be placed in the Library (Table 2—CDC Loans at 31 December 1997 and Table 3—CDC Loans at 31 May 2004).

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems and *(b)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181350]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: A review of DFID's pay systems for staff as follows the Senior Civil Service is currently under way. The current pay deal expires on 31 July 2004. The review takes the form of discussions between my officials and the Trade Union Side, and separately with the Treasury and Cabinet Office, and culminates in an offer to the Trade Unions. DFID is still discussing our position with all parties, although we hope to make an offer to the Trade Unions soon. There will be no formal review document.

DFID completed its equal pay audit of staff below the Senior Civil Service last year, and found no significant pay gaps. Discussions are under way with the Cabinet Office on a number of issues as part of the current pay review, including their potential impact on equal pay. Once these discussions have been concluded we will put a copy of our updated equal pay action plan in the Library.

Zambia

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by how much Zambia's *(a)* GNP per capita and *(b)* human development index ranking has changed since 1990; what recommendations he has made to improve World Bank conditionality under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries programme; and if he will make a statement. [181975]

Hilary Benn: Zambia's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita fell by 11.9 per cent. between 1990 and 2002, an average decline of 1.1 per cent. per annum. The decline occurred in the period up to 1995 when real GDP per capita fell by 18.3 per cent., an average decline of 4.0 per cent. per annum. Since 1995 real GDP per capita has risen by 7.8 per cent., an average rise of 1.1 per cent. per annum, with positive per capita growth in every year except 1998.

Zambia's per capita GDP based on purchasing power parity, as commonly used for international comparisons, moved from US$780 in 1990 to US$710 in 1995 and US$840 in 2002. Zambia's ranking among 149 countries listed in the World Bank's database throughout this period fell from 134th position in 1990 to 141st in 1995 and 140th in 2002.

Zambia's Human Development Index score fell from 0.461 in 1990 to 0.386 in 2001. Zambia's ranking fell from 111th of 136 countries in 1990 to 163rd of 175 countries in 2001.

The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) in its objective of reaching Completion Point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. DFID works closely with the World Bank and other donors to ensure development assistance is aligned with GRZ's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

PRIME MINISTER

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the letter from his Office dated 27 May, to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Ms R. Hilton, if he will obtain the reply from the Home Office promised in that letter. [182461]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Hill) has replied to my hon. Friend today.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Prime Minister for how many empty houses his Office is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182239]

The Prime Minister: None.

Intelligence Personnel (Geneva Convention)

Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister whether intelligence personnel are required to *(a)* undertake training in and *(b)* demonstrate knowledge of the Geneva Convention before undertaking duties. [182334]

The Prime Minister: The Intelligence and Security Committee has made clear that they will be taking further evidence on these issues and the Government will co-operate fully with them.

Iraq

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Prime Minister when and by whom he was first informed that the Coalition Provisional Authority would hand sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government on 28 June. [181961]

The Prime Minister: Bringing forward the handover of sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government had been under consideration for some time. The final decision was only taken when Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi recommended that it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has made to *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the United States of America and *(c)* the Government of Iraq about the merits of continuing to contribute 5 per cent. of Iraqi oil revenues as war reparation and compensation. [182103]

The Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with foreign Governments and members of the United Nations on a wide range of issues, including Iraq.

The contribution of 5 per cent. of Iraqi oil revenues to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) Compensation Fund for war reparations and compensation was agreed through UN Security Council

Resolution 1483 on 22 May 2003 and reaffirmed in UN Security Council Resolution 1546 on 8 June 2004, both of which were supported by the UK.

Under UN Security Council Resolution 1483, Iraqi payments to the UNCC Compensation Fund can only be changed by a decision of a sovereign Iraqi government and the UNCC Governing Council.

Llew Smith: To ask the Prime Minister what response he has made to the letter from the Anglican archbishops on prisoner abuse in Iraq. [182363]

The Prime Minister: I have replied to the letter today.

ISC Annual Report

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Intelligence and Security Committee's (ISC) Annual Report 2003–04, paragraph 78, when he received the letter from the ISC; when he replied; and with whom he consulted before answering the letter. [182173]

The Prime Minister: I received the letter from the Intelligence and Security Committee on 14 May 2004 and replied on 24 May.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2003–04, paragraph 78, what follow-up action was taken concerning the complaints by detainees alleged in subsection b; and when it was undertaken; [182174]

(2) pursuant to the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2003–04, paragraph 78, subsection c, whether the concerns reported to the US authorities by UK security staff were also reported to UK authorities; [182270]

(3) pursuant to the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2003–04, paragraph 78, when security personnel were made aware that hooding was not acceptable. [182306]

Llew Smith: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the single case in which United Kingdom intelligence personnel did not conduct an interview consistent with the principles laid down in the Geneva Convention, to which the Intelligence and Security Committee makes reference at paragraph 78, page 23 of its Annual Report, Cm 6240. [181963]

The Prime Minister: The Intelligence and Security Committee has made clear that they will be taking further evidence on these issues and the Government will cooperate fully with them.

Lord Levy

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the activities Lord Levy has undertaken on his behalf since 1 January 2003, and if he will list the countries he has visited, and the dates those visits occurred. [182248]

The Prime Minister: In his capacity of Prime Minister's envoy, Lord Levy undertakes meetings to exchange views on the Middle East Peace Process and issues relating to Latin America and Kazakhstan.

Since 1 January 2003, Lord Levy undertook the following visits:

	Destination
2003	
22–23 January	Occupied Territories
19–21 February	United States
1–2 September	Kazakhstan
9–19 September	Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela
21–23 September	Israel and the Occupied Territories
1 December	Switzerland (Geneva)
4–9 December	United States
2004	
19–21 April	Israel
14–16 May	United States
24–27 May	Israel
30–31 May	Jordan and Egypt
2–3 June	Israel and the Occupied Territories

Ministerial Air Travel/Gifts

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles he has flown on official business. [181861]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Prime Minister what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* him and *(b)* staff of his Office in the latest year for which figures are available. [182133]

The Prime Minister: The average cost for air travel for my Office between Northern Ireland and Great Britain for 2002–03 was £1,787 per visit.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place on the publication scheme of his Office on the website a list of gifts which were given to Ministers between January 1999 and June 2001. [182034]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 9 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

The list of gifts for 2003–04 received by Ministers and valued at more that £140 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Age Discrimination

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the role of the proposed Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be in relation to age discrimination and *(a)* employment, *(b)* poor service and *(c)* unfair treatment. [182172]

Ms Hewitt: Legislation under the European employment directive to outlaw age discrimination in employment and vocational training is on course to come into force on 1 October 2006. As our White Paper, Fairness for All, has outlined, the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) will provide institutional support for the provisions on age discrimination, working closely with partner organisations and key stakeholders to provide advice and assistance. The CEHR will be able to advise individuals of their rights under the legislation, and support some people to bring their cases before the courts. In addition, the CEHR will have powers to conduct an investigation into a named party where it has reasonable suspicion that the person is not complying with the statutory requirements of the age regulations. If unlawful discrimination or harassment is found, the CEHR will be able to require the discrimination to stop.

The CEHR will promote equality of opportunity for people regardless of age. This will allow the CEHR to act in a broad range of areas, not just where there is specific legislative protection in employment and vocational training. For example, in respect of poor service or unfair treatment, the CEHR will promote and encourage good practice, working with central and local government, regional agencies and the private and voluntary sector. As part of this activity, the CEHR will have the power to conduct inquiries into age discrimination generally or unequal outcomes in respect of age.

Business Start-ups (Hyndburn)

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new businesses have been established in Hyndburn since 1997. [181303]

Nigel Griffiths: Barclays Bank's latest survey of business creation includes non-VAT registered firms and shows that there were 115,000 business start-ups in England and Wales in the last quarter of 2003, including 2,600 business start-ups in the County of Lancashire (which includes Hyndburn parliamentary constituency). The latest yearly figures show 465,000 business start-ups in England and Wales in 2003. This represents a 19 per cent. increase on the year before. In 2003 there were 10,200 business start-ups in the County of Lancashire.

Barclays data for the County of Lancashire are not available before 2003 and data are not available for Hyndburn parliamentary constituency separately.

DTI figures based solely on VAT registrations for Hyndburn local authority and Rossendale local authority (which both contain parts of Hyndburn parliamentary constituency) are shown in the following table for the period 1997 to 2002. Data for 2003 will be available in autumn 2004.

VAT registrations: 1997–2002

	Hyndburn	*Rossendale*
1997	160	180
1998	175	215
1999	155	185
2000	180	200
2001	180	190
2002	170	170

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994–2002, Small Business Service www.sbs.gov.uk/statistics/analytical/vatstats.php

VAT registrations do not capture all start-up activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 3.8 million enterprises were registered for VAT at the start of 2002.

Clean Coal Technology

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what grants are available from the European Union Framework Programme on Research and Development for clean coal technology. [180797]

Mr. Timms: The Sixth framework programme provides support for collaborative R&D projects in capture and sequestration of CO_2 associated with cleaner fossil fuel plants. A call for proposals including this area is expected in September.

CHP Plants

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what combined heat and power plants were given power station consents by her Department in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2003; and when they are expected to commence operation. [181958]

Mr. Timms: The following is the information requested:

2001

Conoco Refinery, South Killingtholme

Jaguar, Halewood

Kelloggs, Trafford Park

Avonmouth

2002

Basell Polyolefins, Carrington

2003

Polimera Europa, Hythe, Hampshire

The consents are valid for five years from the date of issue and it is a commercial matter for the developer concerned when to implement his consent.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Tynan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what level of reserve capacity would be required in order to safeguard continuity of electricity supply from *(a)* tidal, *(b)* wave, *(c)* on-shore wind and *(d)* off-shore wind electrical generating capacity. [R] [178322]

Mr. Timms: This is primarily a matter for the generators.

The introduction of a significant amount of intermittent renewable generation will require additional reserve capacity in the electricity market and the use of more short-term balancing services. The amount of reserve capacity that will be required depends on the overall mix of generation technologies and the approach taken to address intermittency in different timescales (for example, storage, demand side measures or flexible generation). The electricity trading arrangements give suppliers strong financial incentives to contract ahead to meet the demands of their customers and give generators strong financial incentives to deliver the power they have contracted to provide. It is a commercial matter for all generators, including those producing from the alternative renewable technologies, how they manage the risks associated with variability in the generation from their plant. Market participants are assisted by the information that NGC provides to the market in its role as System Operator about forecast future supply and demand for electricity.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many cases have been registered in employment tribunals against *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector employers in each region in each year since 1997; how many costs awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants in each region; and what the average cost award was in each region. [181215]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Employment Tribunals Service does not collect statistical data on public or private sector employers. Statistical information for individual regions is not readily accessible and could be produced only at disproportionate cost. Parliamentary question number 181218 answered today, provides the UK statistics on the number of registered employment tribunal cases and costs awards since 1997.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many employment tribunal cases there were in each year since 1997; how many cost awards were made against *(a)* respondents and *(b)* applicants; and what the average employment tribunal cost award was in (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) each region. [181218]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the number of tribunal applications registered by the Employment Tribunals Service in the UK since 1997.

	Registered tribunal applications
2003–04	115,042
2002–03	98,617
2001–02	112,227
2000–01	130,408
1999–2000	103,935
1998–99	91,913
1997–98	80,435
1996–97	88,910

The following table illustrates how many employment tribunal cost awards have been made against respondents and applicants in the UK in the last two financial years. The Employment Tribunals Service did not breakdown the statistics for applicants and respondents prior to 2001–02.

	Costs awards against:	
	Respondent	*Applicant*
2003–04	332	644
2002–03	307	691
2001–02	169	467

The following table shows the average amount of an employment tribunal cost award in the UK since 1997.

	Average cost award (£)
2003–04	1,859
2002–03	1,524
2001–02	983
2000–01	295
1999–2000	1,155
1998–99	743
1997–98	546

Statistical information for individual regions is not readily accessible and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

End-of-Life Vehicles Directive

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when she expects to introduce the Regulations implementing the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive. [181544]

Mr. Timms: The End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/2635) brought into effect a number of provisions of the End-of-Life Vehicles Directive (2000/53/EC). Consultation on draft Regulations to implement the remaining provisions of the Directive, which take effect from 2006 onwards, closed on 30 March 2004. 65 responses to the consultation were received and are being assessed. It is the Government's intention to present the End-of-Life Vehicles (Producer Responsibility) Regulations 2004 to the House shortly.

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when proposed Regulations requiring end-of-life vehicles to be delivered to authorised processors will become effective. [181546]

Mr. Timms: The End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003 (S.I.2003/2635) came into effect in England and Wales on 3 November 2003, and equivalent legislation was introduced shortly after in Scotland and Northern Ireland. These Regulations set down the arrangements

through which businesses may become "authorised treatment facilities" for the purposes of dealing with end-of-life vehicles, and describe the site and operating conditions with which such businesses must comply.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment she has made of the effects of measures aimed at encouraging women to pursue careers in information technology. [180070]

Ms Hewitt: I have been disappointed that this industry remains one of the least attractive Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) areas for girls and women. Despite the initiatives which we have supported so far, the perceptions of IT as not female-friendly are hard to turn around. I am attaching the latest statistics which show a worrying decline of women working in IT. We will continue to support a number of programmes, including Computer Clubs for Girls and the information technology degree being developed by e-Skills UK, the Sector Skills Council for IT sector, which it is hoped will encourage girls and women to seek careers in information technology. We are also working with employers and others to address the situation by encouraging flexible working practices. The new Resource Centre for Women in SET will make working with employers in this area one of their top priorities.

Women in the IT workforce, UK

	Percentage
1997	27
1998	23
1999	26
2000	23
2001	22
2002	23
2003	20

Note:

The decline in women in IT occupations from spring 2002 to spring 2003 is a significant drop, which has not been seen since 1999. This is slightly concerning in that the same period the workforce increased slightly from 1,012,609 to 1,036,066 indicating that the gender balance has worsened.

Occupational perspectives

When looking at the gender proportion within each occupational role, women tend to be less well represented in design and creation of technological systems—just 12 per cent. of software professionals are women (17 per cent. in 2002). Currently women occupy 15 per cent. of all IT management positions and 11 per cent. of IT strategy and planning roles. Both these occupations have seen slight decreases in the proportion of women from 2002 from 19 per cent. and 31 per cent. respectively.

Percentage of total (male + female) IT workforce that are male/female by occupation

Occupation	Male	Female
Information and communication technology managers	85	15
IT strategy and planning professionals	89	11
Software professionals	88	12
IT operations technicians	70	30
IT user support technicians	75	25
Database assistants and clerks	38	62
Computer engineer installation and maintenance	93	[1]

The previous table shows that the largest concentration of female employment continues to be in database, user support and operations occupations. These three occupational areas continue to account for the employment of over half of women in IT (as shown in the following table) and this proportion seems to be growing at the expense of management and software occupations.

Distribution of the female IT workforce by occupation

Occupation	2002	2003
		Percentage
Information and communication technology managers	21	19
IT strategy and planning professionals	7	7
Software professionals	21	18
IT operations technicians	15	18
IT user support technicians	8	9
Database assistants and clerks	28	27
Computer engineer installation and maintenance	[1]	[1]

[1] Figure and percentage suppressed due to cell size of less than 10,000.

Notes:

1. All figures are taken from Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey, Spring Quarter and are based on "Working Age" and "In Employment" with total excluding "DNA".

2. The Standard occupational code changed from 2000 onwards to SOC 2000.

3. Due to rounding percentage totals may not always equal 100.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 817W, to the hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce), on the Export Credits Guarantee Department, what proportion of the outstanding debt for each country is accounted for by defence or defence related exports. [181012]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: ECGD only has outstanding debt in respect of defence or defence-related exports in two countries, Indonesia and Zimbabwe. Of the amount owed by Indonesia, 83 per cent. is in respect of defence related exports. In respect of Zimbabwe it is 1 per cent. The Indonesia issue arose out of the problems in that country in 1998. Indonesia is seeking to discharge this debt.

Fur Farms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value was in pounds sterling of fur pelts imported into the UK in each year since 1995. [178286]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is as follows:

UK imports of raw fur skins

	£ million
1995	20.2
1996	28.2
1997	20.8
1998	11.8
1999	6.9
2000	7.6
2001	8.6
2002	6.7
2003	6.4

Note:
Fur pelts are defined by Heading 212 of the Standard International Trade Classification (Revision 3).
Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, HM Customs and Excise.

Landfill

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will list the meetings her officials have had with officials from *(a)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* the Environment Agency on the Environment Agency's draft guidance on (i) monitoring landfill gas engine emissions, (ii) the management of landfill gas, (iii) monitoring trace components in landfill gas and (iv) gas treatment technologies for landfill gas engines; and what the outcomes were. [181220]

Mr. Timms: Discussions took place on these issues earlier in the year between officials in my Department, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency. Further information about such discussions is being withheld under Exemption 2—internal advice and discussion of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information on the grounds that it would harm the frankness and candour of internal deliberations and of confidential communications between Departments.

Nuclear Safety

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement on the application of the European Court of Justice ruling of 10 December 2002 (C-29/99) to future decisions on nuclear safety in the United Kingdom. [181389]

Mr. Timms: In its judgment in Case C-29/99, the European Court of Justice ruled that the Declaration of competence concerning the Euratom Community's accession to the international Convention on Nuclear Safety had failed to include certain fields covered by that Convention in which the Euratom Community had at least some competence. On 15 December 2003, the Council agreed that the Declaration should be amended in line with the Court's judgment. This has no immediate bearing on nuclear safety decisions in the United Kingdom. These are still a matter for the national regulators. However, it remains to be seen how far, if at all, this Court judgment might lead to the development of Euratom measures on nuclear safety that previously would have been regarded as outside the field of Community competence. Any such measures, if agreed, would apply to all member states.

Post Office

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 718–19W, on Crown post offices, when the Chief Executive of Post Office Ltd. will provide a substantive reply. [181813]

Mr. Timms: I understand that the company has sent a substantive reply to the hon. Member.

Renewable Energy

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of renewable energy generated in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales in each year since 1998 was from landfill gas. [181221]

Mr. Timms: Information on renewable energy generation is available only for the UK as a whole. Landfill gas use for electricity and heat in the UK in each year since 1998 is as follows:

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent		*Landfill gas as a proportion of the total (percentage)*
	Landfill gas	*Total renewables*	
1998	402.4	2,230.3	18.0
1999	602.0	2,453.3	24.5
2000	731.2	2,524.9	29.0
2001	835.8	2,652.8	31.5
2002	892.1	2,966.3	30.1
2003	1,088.1	3,225.4	33.7

Source:
Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics.

SPC 2888

Mr. Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what documentation she made available to Parsons Energy and Chemicals review of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline; [179984]

(2) when the Parsons Review into the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline was made available to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [179992]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and/or ECGD, did not provide WorleyParsons Energy Services (formally Parsons Energy and Chemicals) with any documentation on the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (ETC) oil pipeline.

WorleyParsons provided ECGD with the following reports: an interim report (in October 2002), the main report on the project (in March 2003) and a desktop study report on the joint field coating (on 27 May 2004). A report on the site visit is currently in preparation.

VAT-registered Enterprises

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 10 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 570W, to the hon. Member for Southwark, North and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes), on VAT-registered enterprises, if she will express the national and regional business creation data for 2003 as a figure per head of population; and if she will express

the national and regional stock of VAT registrations for (*a*) 1994, (*b*) 1998 and (*c*) 1999 to 2003 as a figure per head of population. [181011]

Nigel Griffiths: The following tables record Barclays business creation data for each region and London in 2003. Barclays latest survey of business creation only contains 2003 data for the regions and London. The data in the following table have been converted into figures per head using population data found at the Small Business Service website.

Start-up rates per 10,000 resident adults

2003	*Number*
East	109
East Midlands	103
London	143

Start-up rates per 10,000 resident adults

2003	*Number*
North East	75
North West	107
South East	118
South West	130
West Midlands	90
Yorkshire and the Humber	95

Source:
Barclays Small Business Survey: http://www.business.barclays.co.uk/. Transformed using data from mid-year 2002 population estimates.

Data for the number of VAT registrations in 2003 are available in autumn 2004. The number of VAT registrations in 2002 (the latest year available) and the national and regional stock of VAT-registered enterprises for (*a*) 1994, (*b*) 1998 and (*c*) 1999 to 2003 as a figure per head of adult population (aged 16 and over), are shown in the following table.

Country and Government office region	*Registrations per 10,000 resident adults*[1] *2002*	*Stocks of VAT registered enterprises per 10,000 resident of each year*[2] *1994*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
England	39	361	370	377	381	384	381	379
Wales	26	351	337	337	334	333	332	327
Scotland	28	297	300	303	303	304	303	303
Northern Ireland	27	439	441	442	440	436	432	430
North East GOR	21	214	212	214	216	218	216	216
North West	33	304	306	311	315	317	317	316
Yorkshire and the Humber	31	314	313	316	317	318	315	313
East Midlands	36	349	350	355	356	359	357	356
West Midlands	34	334	339	344	347	350	349	347
East of England	41	394	401	407	410	413	411	410
London	57	429	472	488	495	498	483	475
South East	44	399	410	421	425	430	432	432
South West	37	410	407	411	413	412	410	406

[1] Based on population estimates for mid-2002.
[2] Based on mid-year population estimates for the previous year.
Note:
Data for 2003 will be available in autumn 2004.
Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Stocks, Small Business Service available from www.sbs.gov.uk/analytical/statistics/vatstats.php.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Only 1.8 million out of 3.8 million enterprises were registered for VAT at the start of 2002.

Wind Farms

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many 2MW wind turbines would be needed to reach the Government's renewable energy targets. [182307]

Mr. Timms: If the Government's 2010 target were met only by 2MW wind turbines then we would need somewhere in the region of 6,000–7,000 turbines.

However, it is more likely that wind will provide around three-quarters of the 10 per cent. target with the rest primarily from a mix of landfill gas, hydro and co-firing with biomass. If this is coupled with the development of significantly larger offshore turbines, (the Irish Arklow Bank site is already installing 3.6 MW turbines), then the number of turbines required is likely to be lower, around 5,000–6,000, including both onshore and offshore installations.

To put this in context—Denmark, a country one-fifth the size of the UK already has over 5,000 turbines installed.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the estimated expenditure is up to 2010 on renewable wind turbines in the form of investment aid. [182324]

Mr. Timms: The main forms of support that wind receives are via the Renewables Obligation and the Climate Change Levy. These currently amount to £31.39 and £4.30 respectively, for each MWh of electricity generated. Aside from this we have also provided £117 million in capital grants as part of the Round 1 Offshore Wind Programme.

Future capital grant funding for offshore wind is not yet available as it forms part of the ongoing SR04 spending review.

Costs to 2010 from the Renewables Obligation and Climate Change Levy are difficult to estimate because they are dependent on the actual amount of wind energy generated. However, if we assume that wind accounts for around three quarters of our 10 per cent. target then support for wind could be in the region of £800M/y by 2010.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what expenditure is planned up to 2010 on research and development of forms of renewable energy other than wind power, with particular reference to *(a)* solar and photovoltaics, *(b)* tidal power, *(c)* wave power, *(d)* turbines, *(e)* biomass and *(f)* biogas. [182360]

Mr. Timms: Expenditure on renewables to 2010 is currently being assessed as part of the ongoing SR04 spending review, which has been closely informed by the recent Renewables Innovation Review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions

5. **Mr. Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the comparative pension provision for those in the 10-year age bands *(a)* 30–39, *(b)* 40–49, *(c)* 50–59 and *(d)* 60–69. [181891]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2002–03, 51 per cent., 56 per cent., 55 per cent. and 55 per cent. of those in the four age bands stated in the question were either contributing to a non-state pension, or were in receipt of one based on their own prior provision for retirement.

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the current average time is that a new widow over state pension age has to wait for her new rate of retirement pension to be calculated; and if he will make a statement. [182064]

Malcolm Wicks: I can confirm that the current clearance time for these cases is just over 93 per cent. within 15 days.

If the customer is in financial hardship, interim payments may be made whilethe new pension rate is calculated.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action he plans to take to reduce the number of people retiring on to means-tested pensions in future years. [181911]

Malcolm Wicks: We are taking action in the pensions bill to promote future pension saving. The creation of the new Pensions Regulator and the Pensions Protection Fund will enhance protection for pension scheme members and improve confidence in pension provision in general. We are also introducing incentives to extend working lives through more generous rewards for deferring state pension. Other initiatives include the introduction of low cost saving products and the provision of more information so that people can make informed decisions about planning for their retirement.

Our reform of SERPS into state second pension has allowed around 20 million people the prospect of building bigger entitlements than they would have had under the old scheme. In addition state second pension will provide much more generous pensions for low and moderate earners and, for the first time, carers and long-term disabled people with broken work records will be able to build up a significant state second pension.

Child Support

17. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child support cases are calculated according to the *(a)* new and *(b)* old formula. [181904]

Mr. Pond: By the end of May over 180,000 new scheme cases had been dealt with.

As at the end of March, the old scheme caseload was around 1,080,000.

Mr. Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will amend child support legislation so that child care and nursery costs are treated as protected expenditure when maintenance is calculated. [180574]

Mr. Pond: No. It would not be right for the child support formula to make an allowance for the child care and nursery costs of any working parent. To do so would provide an element of double provision for these costs, as help with child care costs is given in other schemes.

Mr. Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will amend child support legislation to introduce a more flexible requirement for meeting the condition of shared care. [180575]

Mr. Pond: We have no plans to make further amendments to child support legislation for shared care.

In the new scheme the level at which a reduction in child support liability begins is 52 nights a year. This is a reduction from 104 nights a year in the old child support scheme.

This strikes a balance between recognising the additional costs to the non-resident parent of looking after a child while not being so generous as to discourage the parent with care from allowing care to be shared.

Mr. Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a further statement on when the new system for calculating child maintenance will be extended to existing cases. [180576]

Mr. Pond: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 18 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 1092W.

Working at Height Regulations

20. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from the outdoor activities industry in relation to the proposed working at height regulations. [181907]

Jane Kennedy: In addition to correspondence from hon. members of this House, on 23 June, I met with the hon. Member for Bedfordshire, North East, other hon. Members and noble peers and representatives from the

outdoor activities sector to listen to their views about how they believe these proposed regulations might affect this sector.

Jobcentre Plus

22. **Mr. Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the roll-out of Jobcentre Plus. [181909]

Jane Kennedy: The development of Jobcentre Plus is building on the high quality service already provided by social security offices and Jobcentres by delivering a single, integrated service to all people of working age. We recently opened Jobcentre Plus's 500th new office, in Middlesbrough.

This is only the half way point. Transforming the second half of the Jobcentre Plus network will be just as challenging. But by 2006, we will have a service for people of working age that will be unrivalled across the world.

New Deal

23. **Mr. Mike Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates have been helped into work as a result of the New Deal. [181910]

Jane Kennedy: The New Deals have been a tremendous success in helping to achieve record levels of employment, with more than one million people helped into work through the programme, including over 1,900 people in the Weaver Vale constituency.

Last month we announced our plans to build on the success of the New Deals by removing the many different rules for different groups. We will bring all our support together under one single New Deal, which will give Jobcentre Plus Advisers more flexibility to tailor help to the needs of people facing the greatest problems in finding work.

Asbestos

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend the Health and Safety at Work (etc.) Act 1979, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 to cover the management of asbestos in domestic premises. [175371]

Jane Kennedy: Following the introduction of the new duty to manage asbestos in non-domestic premises (regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations), HSE is looking into the case for extending the duty to certain domestic premises, for example, rented properties.

Any proposal to make or amend health and safety legislation would be subject to full public consultation.

Attendance Allowance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time taken by his Department to reinstate attendance allowance following suspension for the duration of a hospital stay in the latest year for which figures are available. [181185]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Benefit Appeals

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many presenting officers in Scotland are available to attend *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance appeal tribunals. [182316]

Maria Eagle: There are four presenting officers available, who present complex appeal cases at the appeal tribunals for both Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance appeals in Scotland; two are based in Glasgow and two in Edinburgh.

Benefit Payments

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over 60 have started claiming *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit as a direct result to being found to be eligible following an application for pension credit. [181258]

Mr. Pond: The information is not currently available.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many operational staff work in the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency systems. [181740]

Mr. Pond *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. Frank Field, dated 5 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many operational staff work in the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency systems.

As at 31 March 2004 around 4,100 staff were involved in work directly related to "old scheme" activity and 3,200 staff in activity directly related to applications made in accordance with the new child support legislation.

Civil Partnerships

Dr. Evan Harris: What estimate he has made of the cost to public funds of treating same-sex couples in the same way as married couples if they attain civil partnerships for the purposes of *(a)* benefits, *(b)* state pensions prospectively from the start of the civil partnership and *(c)* state pensions on the same basis as married couples where previous pension contributions are counted. [181898]

Maria Eagle: Estimates of the cost to the public funds of extending benefits and pensions to same-sex couples are included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published alongside the Civil Partnership Bill.

Entitlement to state pensions for civil partners is calculated on the basis of a partner's full national insurance contribution record, in the same way as for married couples.

Council Tax Benefit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many council tax benefit recipients there are, broken down by council tax band; and what percentage each represents of the total number of council tax benefit recipients. [181933]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the table.

Number and percentage of council tax benefit recipients by council tax band, as at May 2002

Council tax band	*Council tax benefit recipients (Thousand)*	*Council tax benefit recipients by council tax band (Percentage)*
Total	4,602	100.0
A	2,286	49.7
B	1,112	24.2
C	746	16.2
D	307	6.7
E	112	2.4
F	29	0.6
G	9	0.2
H	[1]	[1]

[1] Data negligible.

Notes:

1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand, and percentages to one decimal place.
4. The totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2002.

Direct Payment

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his statement on Direct Payment, Departmental Report 2004, page 74, by what methods he intends to contact customers who have not yet responded to the initial mailing; and if he will make a statement. [172953]

Mr. Pond: We are beginning to contact again those customers who have not responded to our initial mailing. This process involves a variety of methods including invitation letters; telephone calls and in some circumstances visits. We are supporting this approach through our Information Campaign, which is being further developed to provide customers with more information about their account options. We have also introduced a procedure whereby customers can volunteer to convert to direct payment by telephoning the Information Line.

Key figures on the progress of conversion to direct payment are available in the Library and are updated every four weeks.

Mr. Flook: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Taunton have been contacted about converting to direct payment of benefits; how many people in Taunton have converted to direct payment since the conversion process started; and how many people in Taunton are still to be contacted about converting to direct payment. [164558]

Mr. Pond: We do not have the information requested. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Key figures on the progress of conversion to direct payment are available in the Library and are updated every four weeks.

DLA

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many recipients of the mobility element of disability living allowance are between the ages of 66 and 75; [181881]

(2) how many recipients of the mobility element of disability living allowance have lost that benefit on attaining the upper age limit in each of the last three years; [181882]

(3) how many applications for the mobility element of disability living allowance were disallowed in each of the last three years on the grounds that the applicants were over the age limit. [181883]

Maria Eagle: Recipients of the mobility component of Disability living allowance do not lose their entitlement to it because they reach age 65. As at 29 February 2004, the latest date for which information is available, some 432,700 people between the age of 66 and 75 were receiving the component[1]. Figures are not available for the number of claims for the component that are disallowed because the customer was aged 65 or over.

[1] Source IAD Information Centre

Note:

Figure taken from a 5 per cent. sample and rounded to the nearest hundred. From November 2002, the methodology for producing such figures was changed to allow statistics to be published much sooner. This has resulted in a small increase in the reported caseload. This is because some cases which have actually terminated but have not yet been updated on the computer system are now included.

Economic Inactivity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in tackling economic inactivity. [181879]

Jane Kennedy: Through a combination of economic stability and radical labour market reforms, more than 1.9 million more people are in work now than in 1997 and unemployment is at its lowest level for nearly 30 years.

Since May 1997 the number of people on inactive benefits has reduced and the number of lone parents on benefit has fallen by nearly 200,000. We are making significant progress in reducing the numbers of people coming on to incapacity benefits—down by more than a quarter in the past seven years. Through Pathways to Work pilots, we are making substantial steps forward in finding the best ways to actively support more people into work.

The independent report by Professors Gordon Waddell and Kirn Burton on the Concepts of Rehabilitation for the Management of Common Health Problems, strongly endorses the innovative approach to rehabilitation which we are evaluating in the Pathways to Work pilots.

Employment Assistance (Coventry, South)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken to increase job seeking services in the constituency of Coventry, South since 1997. [180606]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 30 June 2004]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the Written Answer I gave him on 29 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 233–34W.

Environmental Sustainability

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has joined the Watermark project. [181446]

Mr. Pond: The former Department of Social Security joined the Watermark project in 2000 and those arrangements continued following the formation of the Department for Work and Pensions in 2001.

Expatriate Pensioners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British expatriate pensioners have received letters requesting they provide evidence of their continuing entitlement to a British pension in each of the past five years; how many are expected to receive a letter *(a)* this year and *(b)* in each of the next five years; how many have had their pensions (i) reduced and (ii) removed as a result; whether financial savings have been made; and if he will make a statement. [180918]

Malcolm Wicks: DWP administers state retirement pension to almost one million customers in over 200 countries worldwide, via International Pension Centre (IPC).

In response to an issue identified by National Audit Office in the mid 90s, a strategy was introduced to confirm eligibility for state pension, and provide an acceptable level of assurance to Ministers, by way of issue and subsequent check of a letter sent to all customers living aboard. The strategy is designed to ensure that all customers will receive a letter within a maximum five year period.

In the past five years, for period 1999 to 2003, IPC have issued a total of some 850,000 letters, known as life certificates. This represents an average issue of approximately 170,000 letters per year. These are sent to all customers who have entitlement to UK state pension, including, but not exclusively, British expatriate pensioners.

The current strategy is to send out approximately 200,000 letters per year to check entitlement, to ensure that all of the one million customers are contacted within a five year period. This is expected to continue over the next five years.

An average of 4,900 pensioners worldwide have had their pensions stopped as a result of the exercise each year, totalling 24,500 over the last five years. This has resulted in financial savings of £26.5 million in the period 1999 to 2003, at an average of £5.1 million per year.

There are very few circumstances where a state pension would be reduced and occurrences are rare. The life certificate exercise predominantly either confirms entitlement or leads to cessation of entitlement.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were eligible for means-tested benefits in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* May 2004. [181899]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information that is available is tabled as follows.

Number of people that were either in receipt or were entitled to but not receiving the following income-related benefits, thousands

	Income support/ minimum income guarantee	*Housing benefit*	*Council tax benefit*	*Income-based jobseeker's allowance*	*Family credit*
1997–98	3,990:4,580	4,650:5,010	6,580:7,040	1,220:1,440	940:990
1998–99	3,890:4,400	4,820:6,480	6,480:6,980	1,130:1,370	950:1,010
1999–2000	3,960:4,510	4,710:6,270	6,270:6,850	1,100:1,270	—
2000–01	4,030:4,500	4,510:6,150	6,150:6,700	1,030:1,180	—
2001–02	4,330:4,840	6,370:6,950	6,370:6,950	1,030:1,240	—

Notes:

1. Estimates are presented as ranges to reflect the uncertainty in the number of estimated entitled non-recipients based on DWP Family Resources Survey data.

2. Estimates relate to financial years; the latest statistics cover 2001–02.

3. Estimates cover the private household population in Great Britain.

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the means-tested benefits available through his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182566]

Mr. Pond: The agencies of The Department for Work and Pensions are Jobcentre Plus, The Pensions Service, The Child Support Agency, The Appeals Service and The Rent Service.

The income-related benefits available in 1997 were Income Support, Social Fund, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

In 2004, the income-related benefits available are Income Support, Social Fund, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Pension Credit.

Miners' Compensation Scheme

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefits are *(a)* regarded and *(b)* disregarded for widows of former miners following payment for personal injury under the Miners' Compensation Scheme. [181627]

Jane Kennedy: Any capital in excess of the basic disregarded amounts will affect entitlement to all the income-related benefits: income support, income-based job seekers allowance, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit. Where capital exceeds a maximum threshold, entitlement will be reduced to nil. The thresholds vary for the different benefits.

Capital does not affect the non-income-related benefits, which are based solely on contribution records of the claimant or, in the case of bereavement benefits, their late spouse.

Older People

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on how the UN principles on older people will be reflected within the Department's work programme. [182167]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is contributing to the action the Government is taking to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of our ageing society in a way that is fully consistent with the UN principles for older people. The introduction of safeguards to protect pension provision, our Informed Choice strategy which empowers people to make better choices about work and retirement, tackling pensioner poverty through Pension Credit, creating incentives to extend working life and improving services through a dedicated Pension Service will enable older people to live independently and participate fully in society.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on Benefit Payments (Pensioners), what the comparable figures are for *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2010. [178885]

Malcolm Wicks: The proportion of individuals aged 60 years or older in receipt of income-related benefits for the 1997 and 2000 is set out in the table. We do not have forecasts for 2010 as this depends on a wide range of assumptions—including about policy decisions that future Parliaments will take. But a projected figure is provided in the following table. This projection is contingent on the assumptions set out in the notes.

	Proportion (Percentage)
1997 (Outturn)	32
2000 (Outturn)	29
2010 (projection)	33

Notes:
1. For the projection, it has been assumed that pensioners' incomes will rise in line with average earnings; that the guarantee element will be uprated in line with average earnings; and that the savings element threshold will be uprated in line with prices.
2. It has also been assumed that the eligible population will tend to rise in line with the general projected growth of the pensioner population.

Sources:
Outturn: IAD Information Centre 100 per cent. and 1 per cent. scans.
Projection: IAD Benefit Forecasting and Model Development Division.

Pensions

Gareth Thomas: If he will make a statement on the steps he is taking to tackle pensioner poverty. [181892]

Malcolm Wicks: We have taken many steps to tackle pensioner poverty, including the introduction of Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments, and since 2000, a 7 per cent. real rise in the level of the Basic State Pension. As a result, during 2004–05 we will be spending nearly £10 billion more on pensioners, including £5 billion more on the poorest third. This means that the poorest pensioners are on average £33 a week better off than they would have been under the 1997 system.

I am today publishing in the Library a review of the Pension Credit campaign to May 2004. This shows that Pension Credit is playing a vital role in helping to give more money to the people who need it most. Over 3 million pensioners are benefiting, with over 2.2 million individuals receiving more money than they did before.

Mr. Amess: What assessment he has made of the adequacy of the funding he has committed to provide assistance to occupational pension scheme members who will not be covered by the pension protection fund. [181906]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave to the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire (Mr. Sayeed) earlier today.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the seven million people who it is estimated, based on evidence from the Family Resoures Survey 2001–02, will remain without second-tier pension arrangements *(a)* are self-employed, *(b)* earn less than the lower earnings limit, *(c)* are unemployed and *(d)* are other non-contributors. [182120]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the Written Answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 1 May 2003, *Official Report*, column 491W.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit application forms *(a)* have been sent out, *(b)* have been returned, *(c)* were adjusted after receipt by the Pension Service and *(d)* led to successful claims for pension credit. [166480]

Malcolm Wicks: As at 31 May, 1.66 million application forms had been issued by the Pension Credit application line. At the same date, 1.22 million completed forms had been returned and 863,000 applications for Pension Credit had been successful. Information on the number of cases in which an application form was amended because of new information is not available.

Not all applications for Pension Credit originate from a call to the application line. A relatively small number of customers will have obtained an application form from another source, for example through one of the external organisations with whom we are working at local level. Information on the number of such cases is not available.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Scotland were in receipt of pension credit in Scotland in each month from 31 January. [180784]

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households have received pension credit in (i) Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, (ii) the Scottish Borders region and (iii) Scotland since October 2003; and if he will make a statement. [180956]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is given in the table.

Pension credit recipients in Scotland, Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale and the Scottish Borders, October 2003 to May 2004

	Scotland		*Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale (parliamentary constituency)*		*The Scottish Borders (Local authority)*	
	Households	*Individuals*	*Households*	*Individuals*	*Households*	*Individuals*
October 2003	201,550	234,835	1,940	2,255	3,980	4,700
November 2003	217,065	255,570	2,165	2,560	4,485	5,380
December 2003	223,060	263,290	2,280	2,685	4,760	5,710
January 2004	227,990	269,695	2,390	2,830	4,935	5,945
February 2004	237,045	281,470	2,525	2,990	5,200	6,275
March 2004	248,605	296,080	2,710	3,225	5,560	6,740
April 2004	253,520	302,255	2,755	3,280	5,600	6,775
May 2004	259,370	309,935	2,830	3,380	5,720	6,935

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Pension credit replaced the Minimum Income Guarantee on 6 October 2003.
3. Individual recipients include a small number of partners under age 60.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department will respond to the requests by Mrs. Giles of Christchurch (Ref: ZP660966C) for her pension to be paid into her building society account; and if he will make a statement. [181004]

Mr. Pond *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* I have written to the hon. Member today.

Residence Orders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support his Department makes available to grandparents who obtain a residence order in respect of a grandchild. [181810]

Mr. Pond: Subject to the usual rules of entitlement, the full range of social security benefits and tax credits is available to grandparents who are responsible for a grandchild living with them.

Additionally, a grandparent who provides day-to-day care for a child can choose to use the services of the Child Support Agency.

Student Loans

Dr. Cable: If he will make a statement on the treatment of student loans by the benefit system. [181903]

Mr. Pond: Full-time students are not generally entitled to receive income-related benefits while studying unless they are in a vulnerable group such as disabled people or lone parents. Where a student is eligible for a loan, it is taken into account as income when deciding entitlement with an amount disregarded for books, equipment and travel. We will be laying regulations this week to increase these disregards for the next academic year.

Sure Start Maternity Grant

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mothers in Tamworth have taken up the Sure Start maternity grant. [179966]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the tables.

Sure Start Maternity Grants for area covered by Staffordshire Social Fund District

	Applications	*Awards*
2000–01	2,830	2,498
2001–02	3,502	3,024
2002–03 to October	2,659	2,221

Sure Start Maternity Grants for area covered by Staffordshire Jobcentre Plus District

	Applications	*Awards*
2002–03 from November	2,142	1,648
2003–04	5,504	4,199
2004–05 to May	961	680

Notes:
1. Tamworth parliamentary constituency was part of the Staffordshire Social Fund District. In November 2002, Staffordshire Social Fund District was combined with parts of Burton Social Fund District to form Staffordshire Jobcentre Plus District. The two areas for which data is given are different, therefore the data is not comparable.
2. A very small area of Tamworth parliamentary constituency falls into another Jobcentre Plus District for which data is not separately available.
3. Sure Start Maternity Grants were introduced on 27 March 2000. There were no applications recorded in the Staffordshire district during 1999–2000.
4. Data is given for all applications and awards, irrespective of whether the application was made by the mother or her partner.
Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cut-off date is this year beyond which those turning 70 years will not qualify for the extra £100 winter fuel allowance. [181161]

Malcolm Wicks: It is intended that the one-off 70-plus payment will be made to someone who is aged 70 on or before 26 September 2004 and who is ordinarily resident in Great Britain for at least one day in the week of 20 to 26 September 2004.

The intention is for the payments to be made automatically with the 2004–05 winter fuel payment, to those who are eligible and who do not need to claim it, before the end of the year. People who do not get a winter fuel payment will need to claim the one-off payment from the Department for Work and Pensions before 31 March 2005.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Absent Ballot Papers

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many absent ballot papers were applied for in each constituency in Northern Ireland at the recent European parliamentary elections; and what percentage of the total electorate this represented in each case. [180976]

Mr. Spellar: The number of absent votes cast as a percentage of the electorate, and the total number of applications, is detailed as follows:

Constituency	*Absent vote applications (Total)*	*Absent votes accepted*	*Percentage of eligible electorate*
Belfast East	475	454	0.912
Belfast North	584	552	1.116
Belfast South	591	561	1.137
Belfast West	814	735	1.506
East Antrim	432	426	0.781
E. Londonderry	1,496	1,377	2.503
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	4,913	4,506	7.076
Foyle	1,739	1,587	2.512
Lagan Valley	922	863	1.319
Mid Ulster	2,796	2,610	4.410
Newry and Armagh	2,090	1,834	2.703
North Antrim	1,235	1,177	1.684
North Down	537	527	0.943
South Antrim	532	516	0.819
South Down	1,664	1,595	2.326
Strangford	645	623	0.964
Upper Bann	1,149	1,082	1.603
West Tyrone	3,200	2,840	4.990
Total	25,814	23,865	2.225

Andersonstown Newspaper Group

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public funding has been given to the Andersonstown Newspaper Group; from which departments it originated; and how much each has contributed. [179708]

Mr. Gardiner: The Andersonstown News Group publishes the Andersonstown News, the North Belfast News and the South Belfast News. It also has management responsibility for the publication of the Irish language daily newspaper "Lá" on behalf of Preas an Phobail Ltd.

Set out are details of the funding made available by the Northern Ireland Administration during the period 1999–2004.

Company	*Funder*	*Amount funded (£)*
Andersonstown News	Department of Finance and Personnel	5,095
Andersonstown News	Department of Social Development	347,375
Andersonstown News	Local Enterprise Development Unit	7,500
Preas an Phobail Ltd.	[1] Department of Finance and Personnel/Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	33,500
Preas an Phobail Ltd.	Local Enterprise Development Unit	30,026
Preas an Phobail Ltd.	[2] Foras na Gaeilge	128,139

[1] The Department of Finance and Personnel was responsible for funding until December 1999 when responsibility for funding transferred to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister under Devolution.

[2] Foras na Gaeilge (the Irish Language Agency of the North/South Language Implementation Body) is funded jointly by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in Northern Ireland and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCRGA) in the Republic of Ireland. DCAL contributes 25 per cent. and DCGRA contributes 75 per cent. of the funding. The total contribution from Foras na Gaeilge to Preas an Phobail for the publication of Lá during the period 1999 to 29 June 2004 was £512,558. DCAL contributed 25 per cent. of this amount—£128,139.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure the full implementation of antisocial behaviour orders in Northern Ireland; and when the draft Anti-social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order will come into effect. [178384]

Mr. Spellar: The draft Anti-social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 was laid before Parliament on 28 June 2004. Subject to parliamentary consideration, the aim is for legislation to be made by the end of July.

Autism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to improve respite services for autism sufferers. [181534]

Angela Smith: Although there are no specific plans in respect of respite services for autism sufferers, "Priorities for Action 2004/05" requires that boards and trusts should develop the range of community learning disability services, with particular emphasis on community support teams, community placements and day and respite care provision to support those living in the community. This action, which will include services relating to autism, has been allocated additional funding.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration has been given to creating a regional facility for autism respite. [181535]

Angela Smith: The development of services for children with autism is a departmental priority and £0.5 million has been made available for this purpose in 2004-05. It is important, however, that services are locally accessible and there are no plans to provide a specialist province wide centre for autism respite.

Bloody Sunday Trust/Pat Finucane Centre

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public funding has been allocated to *(a)* the Bloody Sunday Trust in Londonderry and *(b)* the Pat Finucane Centre in Londonderry in each of the last five years. [180977]

Mr. Spellar: Public funding has been allocated to *(a)* the Bloody Sunday Trust in Londonderry and *(b)* the Pat Finucane Centre in Londonderry in each of the last five years as follows:

£

	(a) Bloody Sunday Trust	*(b) Pat Finucane Centre*
1999-2000	58,700	412
2000-01	26,065	1,950
2001-02	—	3,000
2002-03	—	2,964
2003-04	—	2,050

CCTV

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which town centres in Northern Ireland have CCTV systems in operation. [182088]

Mr. Spellar: At present there are 17 town centre CCTV systems operating in Northern Ireland, which have received assistance from public funds. The relevant cities and towns are:

Armagh
Ballymena
Ballynahinch
Banbridge
Belfast
Coleraine
Craigavon
Dungannon
Dunmurry
Fivemiletown
Hillsborough
Lisburn
Londonderry
Moira
Moy
Omagh
Portadown

Assistance from public funds has also been given to two further systems in Maghera and Magherafelt, which are expected to become operational shortly. Finally, I have recently agreed to provide funding to Newtownabbey borough council to assist with the establishment of a new CCTV system in Glengormley town centre.

There may be other town centres which have had CCTV cameras installed, without assistance from central Government and we would not be aware of the full extent of such systems.

On 14 June 2004, I announced that Government had made available a further £2 million to assist with the development of CCTV in Northern Ireland, including funding for the development of new town centre systems as well as the expansion and enhancement of current systems.

Civil Servants (Industrial Action)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recipients of incapacity benefit in Northern Ireland are waiting for overdue payments from the Department for Social Development. [180804]

Mr. Spellar: It is not possible to quantify the number of cases affected at any given time, except at disproportionate cost.

However priority is always given to maintaining continuity of payment to existing incapacity benefit customers. There will, however, always be cases in the system where payment may be overdue, for example, while awaiting receipt of medical evidence or information from the customer.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for incapacity benefit have been delayed because of the current industrial action by civil servants. [180805]

Mr. Spellar: In the period December 2003 to March 2004 staff responsible for the processing of applications for incapacity benefit participated in various forms of industrial action; overall about 720 man-days were lost.

There has been no industrial action affecting this area of work since then and at present there should be no cases where payment has been delayed due to industrial action.

As a result of training and the implementation of a new computer system, the new applications in hand have increased from a normal workload of 2,600 fresh claims to 3,700 for the week ending 25 June 2004. In May 2004 incapacity benefit branch performance for fresh claims was 31 days against a target of 28, and the year to date performance was 30 days.

A recovery plan has been in operation with the result that the number of outstanding applications for incapacity benefit should be at normal levels by August 2004. This situation is being closely monitored.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recipients of incapacity benefit have had payments delayed as a result of the current industrial action by civil servants. [180806]

Mr. Spellar: In the period December 2003 to March 2004 staff responsible for the processing of applications for incapacity benefit participated in various forms of industrial action; overall about 720 man-days were lost.

There has been no industrial action affecting this area of work since then.

Priority is always given to maintaining continuity of payment to existing incapacity benefit customers. There will, however, always be cases in the system where payment may be delayed, for example, while awaiting receipt of medical evidence or information from the customer.

It is not possible to quantify the number of cases affected at any given time, except at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

At present there should be no cases where payment has been delayed due to industrial action.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases awaiting determination of an *(a)* employment and *(b)* industrial tribunal have been delayed as a result of the current Civil Service industrial action. [180811]

Mr. Gardiner: All cases awaiting determination have been delayed as a result of the current civil service industrial action. The Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal cases listed for hearing from week commencing 24 May 2004 through to week commencing 5 July 2004 have been postponed at the Tribunal's own motion and will be rescheduled as soon as possible. These postponements have a knock-on effect on other cases awaiting determination.

Civil Service Recruitment

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he, his Ministers and Officials have had in 2004 with the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners regarding *(a)* recruitment competition SC/18/03 and *(b)* nationality requirements. [180120]

Mr. Pearson: The selection procedures for all Senior Competitions (including competition SC/18/03) are quality assured by the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners. The Commissioners' Office formally approve the recruitment documentation prior to advertising, following receipt of applications, following interviews and prior to formal offer of appointment.

At a meeting between senior officials and the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners in April there was discussion on the Commissioners' remit in respect of nationality requirement for the public service posts within the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been ruled ineligible in 2004 for advertised posts in the Northern Ireland Civil Service on the grounds that they *(a)* are not UK nationals and *(b)* are Irish nationals. [180121]

Mr. Pearson: Three candidates were ruled ineligible for advertised posts in 2004 on the grounds that they were not UK nationals. Of these, one was identified as an Irish national.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many advertised posts have been reserved in the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 2004. [180122]

Mr. Pearson: 34 NICS posts advertised in 2004 (to date) were reserved.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the cost of running Civil Service competition SC/18/03, including the time spent by officials and others on this competition; and what the costs were in respect of posts for which appointments were not made. [180123]

Mr. Pearson: The costs for competition SC/18/03 were:

Actual Charges

	£ thousands
Advertising Costs	21,024
Travel and Subsistence Costs	1,500

Notional Charges

	£ thousands
Recruitment Service Costs (Based on Average Salary Figures)	2,295

Only one of three posts was filled from this competition.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what appointments have been made in the Civil Service competition SC/18/03; and in the cases where appointments have not been made, why that is the case. [180124]

Mr. Pearson: This competition resulted in one of three posts being filled. The competition did not attract candidates of sufficient calibre to fill all the posts.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Newry and Armagh (Mr. Mallon), *Official Report*, column 421W, on the Northern Ireland Court Service, how many *(a)* Reserved and *(b)* Non-Reserved posts were advertised by the Northern Ireland Civil Service in each of the last five years in grades equivalent to those for which posts were Reserved in the Northern Ireland Court Service. [180195]

Mr. Pearson: The Northern Ireland Civil Service has advertised 132 competitions in the last five years at grades equivalent to those for which posts were Reserved in the Northern Ireland Court Service. Of these competitions, 105 were designated Non-Public Service (ie Non-Reserved) and 27 were designated Public Service (ie Reserved). The following table details the competitions advertised annually:

Grade	*Reserved*	*Non-Reserved*	*Total*
1999			
Grade 3	1	—	1
Grade 5	—	3	3
Grade 7	1	11	12
Deputy Principal	—	4	4
Staff Officer	—	1	1
Admin Officer/Assistant	—	—	—
SGBII	—	—	—
SGBI	—	—	—
Total	2	19	21
2000			
Grade 3	—	1	1
Grade 5	4	9	13
Grade 7	—	2	2
Deputy Principal	1	8	9
Staff Officer	—	8	8
Admin Officer/ Assistant	—	2	2
SGBII	—	—	—
SGBI	—	—	—
Total	5	30	35
2001			
Grade 3	—	—	—
Grade 5	2	6	8
Grade 7	1	2	3
Deputy Principal	—	7	7
Staff Officer	1	5	6
Admin Officer/ Assistant	—	2	2
SGBII	—	—	—
SGBI	—	—	—
Total	4	22	26
2002			
Grade 3	1	1	2
Grade 5	[1]2	6	8
Grade 7	—	1	1
Deputy Principal	2	4	6
Staff Officer	1	7	8
Admin Officer/Assistant	—	—	—
SGBII	—	—	—
SGBI	—	—	—
Total	6	19	25
2003			
Grade 3	1	1	2
Grade 5	5	8	13
Grade 7	1	1	2
Deputy Principal	2	3	5
Staff Officer	1	2	3
Admin Officer/Assistant	—	—	—
SGBII	—	—	—
SGBI	—	—	—
Total	10	15	25

[1] One competition (Public Expenditure Posts) required candidates to satisfy the requirements for a Reserved (Public Service) post. Successful candidates were however taken from this competition to fill vacancies in both Reserved (Public Service) and Non-Reserved (Non-Public Service) posts.

Endoscopes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which hospitals in the Province use automated endoscope cleaners; and when use of this process commenced at each hospital. [181532]

Angela Smith: The hospitals that use automated endoscope reprocessors are as follows:

The date of introduction of the process in each hospital is not available.

Hospital

Royal Group of Hospitals
Ulster Hospital
Belfast City Hospital
Mater Hospital
Antrim Hospital
Whiteabbey Hospital
Causeway Hospital
Altnagelvin Hospital
Craigavon Area Hospital
Tyrone County Hospital
Daisy Hill Hospital
Erne Hospital
Lagan Valley Hospital

Fertility Treatment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* latest average waiting time and *(b)* current longest waiting time for an initial out-patient appointment for fertility treatment in Northern Ireland is; and how many couples are waiting for such an appointment. [179661]

Angela Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gas Price Increases

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the intended rise in domestic gas prices in Northern Ireland by the largest gas supplier. [181044]

Mr. Gardiner: The gas price increase, proposed earlier this year by Phoenix Natural Gas, remains suspended pending completion of the company's wholesale gas supply agreement negotiations with Centrica.

Grammar Schools

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many lower graded pupils admitted to grammar schools were upgraded as a result of representations on special circumstances made to the schools by *(a)* parents and *(b)* primary principals in each of the last three years. [180965]

Mr. Gardiner: This information is not centrally available. Admissions decisions, including the consideration of claims of special circumstances, are entirely a matter for the Boards of Governors of individual grammar schools.

When a grammar school receives its applications they consider those claiming special circumstances first and decide on the merits of each case. Those that are considered to warrant a higher grade are then considered alongside the other applications with that higher grade when the admissions criteria are applied. The school will then admit pupils up to its approved admissions number.

Homeless People (Accommodation)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* unannounced and *(b)* announced inspections the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has made of accommodation for homeless people since the introduction of its revised inspection programme in September 2003. [180913]

Mr. Spellar: The information is as follows.

Visits to homeless accommodation in the period September 2003 to May 2004

	Number
Unannounced	45
Announced	271
Total	316

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Northern Ireland Housing Executive spent on bed and breakfast accommodation in each financial year from 2000–01 to date. [180914]

Mr. Spellar: The information is as follows:

Expenditure on bed and breakfast

	£ million
2000–01	2.82
2001–02	2.08
2002–03	2.28
2003–04	1.2

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has spent in each financial year from 2000–01 to date to subsidise bed and breakfast rents that exceeded the housing benefit limit. [180915]

Mr. Spellar: The information is as follows.

"Top up" payments by the NIHE for "Bed and Breakfast" placements

	£ million
2000–01	1.5
2001–02	0.9
2002–03	1.3
2003–04	0.8

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of bed and breakfast units used by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive have rent charges that exceed the levels assessed as reasonable by the Valuation and Lands Agency. [180916]

Mr. Spellar: All bed and breakfast accommodation have rent charges which exceed the level assessed for housing benefit purposes as indicated by the Valuation and Lands Agency.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are in bed and breakfast accommodation provided by the Housing Executive; how many are families with children; what the average time spent in bed and breakfast accommodation is for *(a)* families with children, *(b)* those without children and *(c)* all clients; what the target time set by the Housing Executive is for each group; and if he will make a statement. [180917]

Mr. Spellar: At 24 June 2004 there were 117 households in bed and breakfast accommodation. Of these seven were family households with children.

Average length of stay is:

(a) for families with children—20 days;

(b) for those with out children—135 days; and

(c) for all clients—128 days.

The targets set are:

to cease the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families with children except in emergency and for no more than six weeks by April 2004. At the end of March 2004 the Housing Executive had no families in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer than six weeks;

to cease the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless households without children except in emergency and for no more than six weeks by March 2006;

to reduce the expenditure on bed and breakfast establishments in 2004–05 by 50 per cent. compared to the £1.2 million spent in 2003–04; and

to secure a reduction in expenditure in 2004–05 by £270,000 on bed and breakfast accommodation for families.

It is the Housing Executive's intention that, ultimately, bed and breakfast will be used only in emergencies and never for families.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many placements of homeless people were made by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive during 2003–04 into *(a)* the Housing Executive Sector, *(b)* the voluntary sector, *(c)* private sector rented accommodation and *(d)* private sector single let accommodation. [181176]

Mr. Spellar: During the 2003–04 year the Northern Ireland Housing Executive made a total of 3,934 homeless placements in the following sectors:

	Number
(a) Housing Executive Sector	620
(b) Voluntary Sector	1,708
(c) Private Sector (including Bed and Breakfast and House in Multiple Occupation)	1,092
(d) Private Sector Single Let accommodation	514

Housing Executive (Private Shared Accommodation)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of expenditure by the Housing Executive on private shared accommodation *(a)* in 2003–04 and *(b)* during the current financial year to date; and what his current estimate is of the likely out-turn for such expenditure for the entire financial year 2004–05. [181177]

Mr. Spellar: Expenditure by the Housing Executive on Private Shared Accommodation is as follows:

	£ million
(a) For the 2003–2004 year	1.2
(b) For the year to date (April 24-June 2004)	0.2

The likely outturn for the 2004–05 year is £0.6 million.

International Fund for Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the projects funded by the International Fund for Ireland for the Killyleagh area of Down district council; and what the total amount awarded per project has been. [179663]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have asked the Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland to respond to the hon. Lady directly.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken by Invest Northern Ireland to simplify their procedures and application processes to encourage businesses to use their services. [180681]

Mr. Gardiner: Invest NI has recently rationalised its product range, moving to a smaller number of broader, more flexible Business Support Solutions. The rationalisation exercise has reduced the number of programmes on offer from 184 to 86. In an effort to minimise any confusion among clients applying for support, Invest NI's new Business Solutions portfolio was communicated to the Northern Ireland business community during January and early February 2004.

Invest NI has adopted a sectoral approach to its client portfolio, concentrating its knowledge of particular industrial and commercial areas in discrete client groups within the organisation. Clients of Invest NI are allocated a Client Executive to co-ordinate their interactions with various parts of the organisation.

Every effort is made to clearly communicate the application process, offer practical advice and to process applications as promptly as possible. Invest NI is however responsible for the management of public funds and must therefore have in place rigorous and defensible appraisal procedures.

Literacy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the projects which have been designed and implemented to raise literacy levels in Northern Ireland schools and post-16 institutions since 1996; what research has been conducted into the effectiveness of such projects; and when the next literacy levels research will be carried out. [180967]

Mr. Gardiner: A wide ranging strategy to raise literacy standards has been in operation since 1996. The strategy includes:

strengthened Education and Library Board structures to support schools;

target setting at school level (including a requirement on schools to set their own targets), as well as at overall level;

early intervention programmes for pupils struggling with reading;

a major programme of training for key teachers; and

the provision of summer literacy (and numeracy) schemes.

The strategy has been regularly evaluated, and revised as appropriate, by the Literacy Strategy Steering Group; the Reading Recovery and Summer Schemes elements have also been evaluated externally. The need for future research will be assessed, taking account of developments in the curriculum such as the Enriched Curriculum.

In 1996 Northern Ireland participated in the international Adult Literacy Survey (IALS). The survey, published in 1998, indicated that 24 per cent. of those aged between 16 and 65 in Northern Ireland performed at the lowest level of literacy, level 1. In October 2002, the Department for Employment and Learning launched the Essential Skills for Living Strategy and Action Plan in response to this survey.

To date, the Department has supported 14,500 adult learners and aims to encourage a further 10,500 into learning during 2004–05. As the Essential Skills for Living Strategy and Action plan has been in place for less than two years, the Department has not yet conducted any research to determine the effectiveness of the Strategy. However an evaluation plan is being put in place; the next International survey of adult literacy is currently being planned for 2010.

Mr. Robert Jameson

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers are involved in the investigation of the murder of Mr. Robert Jameson at Trillick, County Tyrone, on 17 January 1974. [180924]

Mr. Pearson: The Police Service of Northern Ireland is presently conducting an assessment of the information available in respect of the murder of Mr. Jameson in

order to identify any investigative opportunities. The actual number of officers deployed at any given time varies according to the most efficient use of resources within the Crime Operation Department.

Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the two areas chosen under the Department of Social Developments Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy that have developed their strategies will have to wait until the other nine areas are at the same level. [181000]

Mr. Spellar: I intend to make an announcement shortly on the final selection of Neighbourhood Renewal areas. The selected areas will be supported in establishing Neighbourhood Partnership Boards and creating Neighbourhood Action Plans. As individual Action Plans are completed and approved, the Department for Social Development will release resources into the area to support the implementation of a range of social, economic, environmental and community capacity improvements. Partnerships that are able to use existing plans as starting points are likely to move to implementation more quickly.

Obesity

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to promote physical activity as a means of tackling obesity in Northern Ireland. [179859]

Angela Smith: It is widely recognised that the fundamental causes of obesity are physical inactivity and poor diet. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety allocated £500,000 for the promotion of physical activity in 2004–05 and is also working with other Departments and key personnel to develop revised strategies and action plans on both physical activity and food and nutrition.

A new Physical Activity Strategy and Action Plan will be issued for public consultation early in July and one on food and nutrition is expected to be ready by the end of the year. Following publication of the definitive strategies, structures will be put in place to take forward the agreed actions.

A task force on obesity in children and young people is also being established under the auspices of the Ministerial Group on Public Health.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland, through its contribution to the Strategy for the Development of Sport, promotes physical activity as a valuable and demonstrable contributor to quality of life in terms of social, economic and health benefits. For example, the Youth Sport Programme promotes the development of physical activity in primary schools. The Community Sport Programme has been designed to increase physical activity among those in Northern Ireland's most deprived areas.

Police (Civilianised Posts)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police posts in Northern Ireland were civilianised in 2003–04. [181178]

Mr. Pearson: Records held by the Police Service of Northern Ireland indicate that 112 police posts were civilianised during 2003–04.

Post Office Card Accounts

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many post office card accounts were receiving payments of State Pension and Pension Credit at Northern Ireland's Post Offices by the end of 2003. [180974]

Mr. Spellar: At 28 December 2003 17,705 customers in receipt of Retirement Pension and State Pension Credit were receiving their benefit into Post Office card accounts.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the June 2003 Crest Guidelines on the Management of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Adults. [179655]

Angela Smith: The Crest Guidelines on the Management of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Adults were launched in June 2003 at a major conference attended by over 250 delegates. The guidelines have been endorsed by the four Health and Social Services Boards, which commission services, and are being used by statutory and voluntary sector service provides to inform service development. The therapies recommended in the guidelines are used in the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation in Omagh, and at the Family Trauma Centre, Belfast.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the total energy supply he estimates will be supplied to Northern Ireland consumers from renewable energy sources by the end of 2004. [180979]

Mr. Gardiner: Statistics relating to the contribution of renewables to total energy supply are not currently available for Northern Ireland.

It is estimated that, subject to climatic conditions, approximately 300 GWh (3 per cent. of total electricity supplied to Northern Ireland consumers) will be generated from indigenous renewable sources during 2004. An additional 100GWh (1 per cent. of total electricity supplied to Northern Ireland consumers) will be imported from outside Northern Ireland.

Road Accidents

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* other collisions there have been on the (i) A2 Bangor to Belfast Road and (ii) Bangor Ring Road, County Down in each of the last 10 years. [179952]

Mr. Pearson: The Chief Constable has provided the information in the following tables which covers the period from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2004. Figures prior to this period are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(i) A2 Belfast to Bangor Road (between the junction of Knocknagoney Road and Abbey Street/Brunswick Road junction, Bangor)

	Total number of injury collisions	Number of fatalities	Serious injuries	Slight injuries
2001–02	37	0	11	61
2002–03	38	4	18	70
2003–04	34	2	27	41

(ii) Bangor Ring Road, County Down

	Total number of injury collisions	Number of fatalities	Serious injuries	Slight injuries
2001–02	29	0	3	41
2002–03	35	0	3	45
2003–04	33	0	2	58

Sickness Absence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days were lost in each department, agency and non-departmental public body in Northern Ireland through staff sickness in each financial year since 1 April 1997; what the average annual number of days lost per employee was as a result of sickness in those years; and what the cost was of such time lost. [180824]

Mr. Pearson: I have placed tables containing the statistical information covering the 11 Departments of the Northern Ireland Administration and its Agencies in the Library. The information which relates to the Northern Ireland Office (excluding NI Prison Service' and Home Civil Service) has only been held centrally since 2000–01.

The NI Prison Service has produced its own statistics but costing details are not available. NIO (Home Civil Service) information is produced in calendar years and again information on costing is not available.

The statistics, where available, relate to financial years 1999–2000, 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03. Statistical data prior to 1999–2000 is not available centrally, nor is the information relating to non-departmental public bodies. Such information could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

The 'Working days lost per staff year' approach is based on Cabinet Office recommendation and replaces working days lost per person. It is recognised that the latter does not always permit valid comparisons to be made between or within organisations which have a high proportion of part-time staff and/or high levels of staff turnover. Costing information has been compiled centrally since 2000–01 and is based on salary costs.

Sperrin Lakeland Trust

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by the Sperrin Lakeland Trust on *(a)* nursing and related staffing, *(b)* goods and services and *(c)* building works in Omagh and Erne in the last year for which figures are available. [180300]

Angela Smith: The information requested was supplied by the Sperrin Lakeland Trust for 2002–03 and is detailed in the following table:

£000

	Erne Hospital Enniskillen	Tyrone County Hospital Omagh
Nursing costs	8,664	6,540
Goods and services	5,285	3,989
Building works (capital)	59	98

Travel Costs (Officials)

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for officials of the Northern Ireland Civil Service for 2003–04; and what processes are employed to ensure that all suppliers are given equal opportunity to offer cost effective travel arrangements. [181358]

Mr. Pearson: The cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain for officials of the Northern Ireland Civil Service for 2003–04 was £2,805,004.12.

These figures relate only to flights booked through the NICS contracted travel agency service and do not include any journeys undertaken which were booked through any other channels as to obtain this information would be at disproportionate cost to Departments.

The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) establishes a contract for a comprehensive travel agency service, which is competed for on a regular basis thus affording all suppliers a regular opportunity to bid for provision of this service. This service includes identifying the best value fare structure to meet the specified business needs of the officials undertaking the journey.

Union Flag (Police Stations)

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date a decision was taken to remove the Union Flag from all Northern Ireland police stations; on whose authority this decision was taken; who issued the instruction to remove the Union Flag; and what the wording of the instruction was. [180925]

Mr. Pearson: The answer to this question is enshrined in the Police Flags and Emblems Regulations (NI) 2002, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Victims Commissioner

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who the Victims' Commissioner for Northern Ireland is; what his remit is; and if he will make a statement. [179730]

Mr. Spellar: There is no Victims Commissioner for Northern Ireland. The idea of a Victims Commissioner was first put forward as a recommendation by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield in his report, "We Will Remember Them", which looked at possible ways of recognising the pain and suffering of victims of the Troubles. Since its publication in 1998 Government have implemented the majority of his recommendations. However, the

appointment of a Victims Commissioner was not pursued. A Victims Minister was appointed and since then over £20 million has been allocated to victims initiatives. The role of Victims Commissioner as envisaged in the report was primarily that of a watchdog over the services and advice available to victims. The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister are taking much of this work forward in their cross-departmental strategy; the consultation exercise they carried out indicated no clear view on the establishment of such a post. Government are currently reviewing their strategy for addressing the needs of victims of the Troubles, including how we deal with the past. This review will inform the development of the next phase of victims policy. We cannot pre-empt the outcome of the review.

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Bill will make statutory provision for a Victims Commissioner in England and Wales who will champion the interests of victims and witnesses of all offences. The provisions have not been extended to Northern Ireland as the Criminal Justice Review made specific recommendations regarding victims and witnesses. The Review recommended that a group comprising of both statutory and voluntary bodies should be set up to maintain a specific focus on victims issues. The Victims, Vulnerable or Intimidated Witnesses Steering Group, representative of criminal justice agencies and Victim Support (NI), fulfils this role. The Review also recommended that the possibility of an advocate should be considered again in the future if new arrangements on behalf of victims are seen not to be working.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* East Londonderry he estimates will be eligible for winter fuel payments in 2004. [180975]

Mr. Spellar: In the 2003–04 year winter fuel payments were made to 275,624 Social Security Agency customers. It is estimated that the figure for 2004–05 will be of similar numbers. A further breakdown by constituency is not available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum Intake Reduction Sub-committee

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Mr. Ken Sutton is a member of the Asylum Intake Reduction Sub-committee; and if he will make a statement. [176396]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 7 June 2004]*: The Asylum Intake Reduction/ Secure Borders sub-programme board was established in February 2003 under the chairmanship of the Senior Director, Operations of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. Initially it was intended that Ken Sutton should be included as a second Senior Director member, given his responsibility for Asylum Support, Casework and Appeals. However by April 2003 it was decided that, as Mr. Sutton already chaired or co-chaired two of the other sub-programme boards, he should not continue to be a member. Mr. Sutton has never attended any meetings of the board.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what qualifications immigration officers assessing initial asylum applications have; and what training is provided to assessing officers. [180010]

Mr. Browne: Immigration officers operating the primary arrivals control at seaports and airports do not assess asylum applications. In line with the 1951 Convention, their role as Border Guards, is to gather basic information from applicants relating to identity, nationality, immigration history, route into the UK and timing of the asylum claim.

Initial decisions on asylum applications are made by asylum caseworkers at the Executive Officer grade and Higher Executive Officers in Fast Track Cases. All caseworkers receive six weeks training (four weeks classroom based training and two weeks formal coaching) covering all aspects of asylum casework including interviewing and how to deal with human rights allegations.

Asylum training is currently under review and it is intended to involve UNHCR in future training provisions.

All asylum caseworkers receive refresher training to consolidate their initial training programme. This includes a rolling programme of workshops run by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, the aim of which is to equip caseworkers better to interview asylum applicants who have been victims of torture.

Other additional training is provided as and when required, such as in respect of changes in legislation or procedures or in response to weaknesses identified by quality assurance work. For example, all asylum caseworkers have recently been invited to attend a refresher course to better equip them to deal with human rights allegations raised alongside asylum claims.

In addition, representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also undertake presentations to provide information about their work and to discuss the procedures and criteria for determining refugee status with asylum caseworkers.

Bribery/Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date each of the two investigations being undertaken by the Metropolitan Police into allegations of foreign bribery began; and what stage these investigations have reached; [175394]

(2) what resources are available for enforcement of Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001; and what plans he has to make changes to the amount available. [175943]

Paul Goggins: No specific resources have been allocated for the enforcement of Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security (ATCS) Act 2001.

However, we have put significant extra resources into the police service in England and Wales over the last few years. Since 2000–01 total provision for policing has risen by over 30 per cent.

Allocation of resources within any given force area is a matter for the Chief Constable. Implementation of Part 12 of the ATCS Act forms part of the National Policing Plan and each Police Authority and Chief Constable will take the National Policing Plan into account when drawing up their Local Policing Plans. There are currently no plans to allocate additional funding.

Concerning the two cases currently under investigation by the Metropolitan Police which you referred to in PQ 158308: the investigations were commenced in January 2003 and are ongoing.

Child Offenders

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were sent to *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institutions in each of the last five years; how many children were (i) in prison and (ii) young offender institutions on the latest date for which figures are available; what representations he has received about children in prisons and young offender institutions; what his response has been; what plans he has to (A) reduce the number of children in prison and young offender institutions overall and (B) implement a policy where no children are held in prisons and young offender institutions; what arrangements he is considering to improve their (1) safety and well-being and (2) education of such children; and if he will make a statement. [169144]

Paul Goggins: Children who are sent from court to Prison Service accommodation are—save in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis—placed within the Service's juvenile estate, as commissioned and purchased by the Youth Justice Board. Children who have been remanded in custody are received under the Prison Rules 1999, while sentenced children are received under the Young Offender Institution Rules 2000.

In 2003, there were 4,918 children under sentence in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales. Figures for the preceding four years can be found in table 3.10 of the publication 'Prison Statistics England and Wales', a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library (total receptions cannot be calculated by adding together receptions in each category because there is double counting).

On 30 November 2003, 485 remanded children and 1,769 sentenced children were held in Prison Service accommodation. The Home Secretary receives a variety of representations from a range of bodies and individuals on children in prison service accommodation. The Youth Justice Board has had responsibility, since April 2000, for commissioning and purchasing all secure accommodation for juveniles (those under 18) sentenced to custody, including Prison Service accommodation.

The Board takes the view that custodial provision has an important place in the criminal justice system for young people, but believes that with the provision of robust and highly intensive new community sentencing alternatives, such as the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP), it is possible and desirable to reduce the use of custody and ensure that it is used only for those who clearly need it. The Board aims to reduce custody for children by 10 per cent. over the next three years. Custody for under 18s did fall by 11 per cent. between October 2002 and October 2003 and although there has been a recent increase, the Board does anticipate further reductions over time.

The Youth Justice Board has no plans to discontinue the purchasing and commissioning of prison service accommodation. However, the Board has fulfilled the commitment made by the then Home Secretary in March 1999, to remove all girls aged under 17 from Prison Service accommodation.

The Youth Justice Board and Prison Service are committed to improving the child protection and safeguards arrangements within the Prison Service juvenile estate. A comprehensive review of the arrangements in across the estate was undertaken during 2003 and a report launched in November. Its recommendations are currently under consideration. Every establishment has appointed a Child Protection Co-ordinator and has set up a Child Protection Committee with representation from the local Area Child Protection Committee, police and other relevant agencies. Anti-bullying strategies, and suicide and self-harm prevention policies have been put in place in all establishments in the estate.

The Youth Justice Board's National Specification for Learning and Skills, introduced to the Prison Service juvenile estate in early 2002, focuses on improving numeracy and literacy; ensuring continuity of mainstream educational placements; reintegration into full-time education, training or employment; increasing employability through practical and vocational activities; and learning how to learn. Establishments provide a range of activities, including learning and skills, vocational training, work, physical education, enrichment activities, access to the library and offending behaviour programmes.

Correspondence

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 10 February 2004, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Withington, on behalf of his constituent Wendy Steele. [180702]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) replied to my right hon. Friend on 1 July 2004.

Crime/Policing (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average police spent on patrol in the streets in Lancashire in the last year for which figures are available. [180395]

Ms Blears: The information sought by my hon. Friend is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the effect of Crime and Disorder Partnerships in Chorley. [180418]

Ms Blears: The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in Chorley is an effective partnership bringing together some 40 partner agencies

with contributions from across the local authority (Chorley borough council, CBC), the Police, Fire Service and Youth Offending Teams (YOT). Partnership meetings are attended by as many as 25–30 people. The CDRP is developing a closer working relationship with the Lancashire Drug Action Team.

The partnership is assessed as working well by the Government Office in the North West (GONW). It has had a significant impact on crime and disorder over the last two years, with substantial reductions recorded in domestic burglary and theft of and from vehicles. There have been increases in violent crime, youth nuisance and criminal damage although changes in police recording of violent crime and criminal damage have affected the levels reported.

The council has reviewed its youth policy and appointed an antisocial behaviour co-ordinator who has developed a strategy to tackle ASB and set up an action group drawing on a range of agencies including CBC Housing, Housing Associations, Lancashire Constabulary, Y.O.T. and Lancashire Fire and Rescue. Any agency can bring a problem to the monthly meeting and all agencies have input on how best to deal with the problem.

Some good practice and recent initiatives by the CDRP include

the introduction of alley gates, which have been well received within the community and led to a number of enquiries about the expansion of the scheme,

the deployment of six Neighbourhood Wardens since 2003,

the appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator in June 2003,

a Railway Watch scheme,

and CCTV systems, which have recently, been refurbished and upgraded from analogue to digital.

The CDRP underwent a self-assessment between January and March 2004 and has produced a Partnership Improvement Plan which will be used by the GONW to assist them in supporting the development of the partnership. The partnership is now engaged in the next round of triennial audits of crime and disorder and misuse of drugs.

Curfews

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many curfews have been issued in respect of *(a)* up to 11-year-olds and *(b)* up to 15-year-olds since their inception. [175471]

Paul Goggins: The available information relates to the number of juveniles aged 10 to 15 years who have received a curfew order at court, in England and Wales from 1998 to 2002, and is contained in the table.

Juveniles sentenced to curfew orders at all courts in England and Wales, 1998 to 2002, by age group

	Aged 10 to 11 years	*Aged 12 to 15 years*
1998	—	45
1999	1	100
2000	1	52
2001	7	568
2002	13	1,077

Statistics on court proceedings for 2003 will be published in the autumn.

Custodial Sentences

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* juveniles were given a custodial sentence by courts in Wales in each month since January 2003. [168639]

Paul Goggins: Statistics on court proceedings for 2003 will be published in the autumn.

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been killed by a parent within the context of domestic violence in each of the last five years for which statistics are available; and what the gender of the *(a)* child and *(b)* parent was in each case. [178353]

Paul Goggins: The latest available information on homicide is published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin number 01/04, "Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003: Supplementary Volume 1: Homicide and Gun Crime". It provides information on the gender of victims and the relationship of victim to suspect. The Bulletin does not specify either the gender of suspects causing the death of their own children or whether the homicide was within the context of domestic violence.

In England and Wales, the numbers of homicide victims under 16 years killed by their parents are given in the table.

	Son	*Daughter*
1998–99	32	25
1999–2000	29	19
2000–01	46	34
2001–02	30	11
2002–03	29	26

Note:
Figures are as at 13 November 2003 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police, by the courts or as further information becomes available.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence has met during the past year. [178991]

Paul Goggins: The Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence meets quarterly. Over the last 12 months it has met in October 2003, January 2004 and April 2004. It will next meet in July.

Entry Clearance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 568W, on entry clearance standards, on what date each reporting mechanism was established; how many individuals have contacted the *(a)* hotline and *(b)* website to date; and how many contacts have resulted in action being taken. [180135]

Mr. Browne: The telephone hotline was set up on 30 March 2004 and the e-mail address box on 25 March 2004. There have been eight callers to the telephone hotline since it was set up.

Since the website was established, 31 responses have been received by members of staff. A wide range of staffing and management issues have been raised, all of which have been responded to and taken forward as appropriate.

All those who have made contact through either facility receive a response, unless they wish to remain anonymous.

EU Accession Countries

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the change in numbers of citizens from EU accession countries travelling to the UK since the expansion of the European Union. [181577]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of visits to the UK from overseas residents, by country of residence, are available from the International Passenger Survey. A special monthly analysis of the number of visits from residents of the EU accession countries is being produced and is available at the following web address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=12222&More=n

So far data have been released up to April. Data for May, the first since the expansion of the European Union, will be released on Wednesday 7 July.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought against persons from the new EU member states who drive without *(a)* a licence, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* due care and attention. [181248]

Caroline Flint: Information is not collected centrally on the nationality of drivers prosecuted for motoring offences.

EU Judicial Agenda

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to advance the judicial agenda of the EU. [180168]

Paul Goggins: The Government have actively supported the current EU judicial co-operation agenda, as set out in the Conclusions of the 1999 European Council held in Tampere, Finland, and in the subsequent Justice and Home Affairs work programme (1999–2004). On the basis of a UK initiative these Conclusions established the principle of mutual recognition of member states judicial decisions as the basis for judicial co-operation in the EU.

The UK has since been a strong supporter of key mutual recognition instruments, such as the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant and surrender procedures between member states, and the Framework Decision on the execution in the European Union of orders freezing property or evidence. These measures, and more like them, will help to ensure that criminals cannot evade justice in another member state, but without compromising the different legal traditions of member states.

The 2005–2010 Justice and Home Affairs work programme is currently being negotiated. The Government aim to ensure that the principle of mutual recognition remains the cornerstone of judicial co-operation within the EU.

Fear of Crime (Crosby)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of fear of crime among the people of Crosby. [177948]

Ms Blears: Sefton's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership interviews their Citizen's Panel yearly on a variety of crime and fear of crime issues. The last interviews were carried out in January 2004, and although the assessment of fear of crime is available the CDRP would need notice to analyse the information down to ward level, but would incur disproportionate costs.

Fraud

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce an offence of fraud by false representation as recommended in the Law Commission's report on fraud; and if he will make a statement. [181705]

Paul Goggins: The Government published a Consultation Paper dealing with this and other proposals to reform the law of fraud on 17 May. I have asked for a copy to be sent to my hon. Friend. Comments are invited by 9 August.

Juror Impropriety

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the consultation paper on jury research and investigations into juror impropriety has been published. [181038]

Mr. Leslie: I have been asked to reply.

The consultation paper has not yet been published.

Juveniles

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* self-injury and *(b)* attempted suicide have occurred in each of the segregation units in juvenile prisons in the last five years. [165400]

Paul Goggins: Suicidal intent is difficult to establish. Data recording incidents of 'attempted suicide' are subsumed within those for self-harm, which cover all acts of self-injury however serious.

A new form for reporting self-harm was introduced across the prisons estate in December 2002. This has improved the consistency with which self-harm incidents are reported and, by broadening the range of questions that are asked, improved the detail and quality of the information collected. Prior to 2003, data on the location where the self-harm incident occurred were not collated centrally. The following table provides the information requested with respect to 2003 only.

Establishment [1]	Number of self-harm incidents involving juveniles in segregation
Ashfield	48
Brinsford	1
Bullwood Hall	7
Holloway	4
Huntercombe	4
New Hall	34
Onley	8
Parc	2
Stoke Heath	7
Wetherby	2
Total	117

[1] The table provides detail of all establishments holding juveniles in 2003 that recorded incidents of juvenile self-harm in segregation.

Note:

The table records number of incidents, not number of individuals. Establishments showing particularly high numbers reflect individual cases of repetitive self-harm.

A number of intervention strategies have been introduced into prisons, young offender and juvenile establishments for people who self-harm. These include counselling, support groups, and specialised psychological interventions. While evaluation of these interventions is, at present, very limited, evidence from research in non-prison settings suggests that male and female adolescents who self-harm repeatedly may benefit from group therapy. A network of establishments has been set up to develop interventions, facilitate evaluation and share good practice. Guidance to staff on managing people who self-harm has also been circulated to establishments.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the juvenile girls in Bullwood Hall prison have been adjudicated on more than once. [165404]

Paul Goggins: Taking 2002 as the starting point the information is as follows.

	Number of juvenile girls
2002	92
2003	48
2004 (As at 1 April)	6

Licensed Premises Closures

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensed premises were closed down by *(a)* police and *(b)* local authorities in each of the past 10 years. [180029]

Ms Blears: Statistics relating to liquor licensing are published every three years based on returns submitted by Clerks to Justices in England and Wales. The most recent information covers the 12-month period to June 2001.

In the twelve months ending 30 June 2001 a total of 183 licenses were revoked by licensing justices: 132 on-licenses and 51 off-licenses. A full breakdown of licenses revoked by licensing justices is provided in the following table for the period 1992 to 2001.

Licences revoked, 1992–2001

Year to 30 June	On-licensed premises	Off-licensed premises	Total on and off licensed premises
1992	216	46	262
1995	262	116	378
1998	215	102	317
2001	132	51	183

Source:

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/02. Liquor Licensing: England and Wales, July 2000 to June 2001.

Responsibility for granting and revoking liquor licenses currently rests with licensing justices though this will be transferred to licensing authorities (district or county councils or London boroughs) under the new Licensing Act 2003, when fully implemented in 2005. The police can make representations to licensing justices including applications to revoke existing licenses. The new Licensing Act 2003 requires licensing authorities to consult chief police officers and to consider the crime and disorder implications, nuisance and public safety when carrying out their functions.

The police also have powers under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 to close disorderly licensed premises without notice for periods of up to 24-hours. The Home Office does not collate statistical information relating t the use of these powers.

Mobile Telephones

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to extend the offence of using a mobile telephone while driving a motor vehicle to individuals using mobile telephones whilst cycling. [180700]

Mr. Jamieson: I have been asked to reply.

The police have powers under sections 28 and 29 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended, to deal with cyclists they consider to be riding dangerously, or carelessly or inconsiderately.

Motorway Patrols

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will run pilot studies to compare accident and speed statistics on motorways with different levels of visible police patrolling. [181310]

Caroline Flint: A wide range of research on what impacts on driver behaviour and road safety is already undertaken on behalf of the Department for Transport. Studies of the sort proposed would not be viable because of the lack of an agreed and satisfactory definition and measure of visible police patrolling. We have, however, recently set a statutory performance indicator for the police which relates the numbers killed and seriously injured to the number of vehicle kilometres travelled. The level and nature of police enforcement activity will influence this.

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the role of police traffic officers in patrolling motorways. [181311]

Caroline Flint: The police are responsible for law enforcement and the investigation of accidents. Their presence also provides reassurance and acts as a

deterrent to bad driving. They will work closely with the traffic officers being appointed by the Highways Agency to identify and deal with the safety, road clearance and traffic management aspects of accidents and other major motorway incidents.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on processes followed in making senior appointments to the National Offender Management Service. [177732]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 10 June 2004]:* The National Offender Manager, the Director of Finance and the Director of Policy have all been appointed following open competition. The 10 Regional Offender Manager posts have been advertised and interviews are to be held in July. Advertisements for the positions were placed in the national press to ensure the widest possible interest.

A job specific selection board was not convened for the appointments of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Director of Human Resources or Director of Standards and Innovation. For HR, it is important to provide early support to the NOMS Chief Executive. The current Prison Service HR Director is leading the HR workstreams associated with the establishment of NOMS alongside his other duties. As the development of NOMS progresses, this situation will be kept under review.

The post of Director of Strategy and Innovations has been filled by a Home Office senior civil servant with the appropriate competences and experience to do the job. He was transferred to this position in accordance with established Home Office procedures.

All of the posts have been filled in accordance with procedures approved by the Civil Service Commissioners.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Director General of the Prison Service will be responsible for setting charges for prisoner places for which he has responsibility under the new structure for the National Offender Management Service. [168832]

Paul Goggins: The pricing and charging mechanism for prisoner places is currently being considered as part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Change Programme. Any mechanism will be agreed by the Chief Executive of NOMS and approved by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which areas have been selected to run regional pathfinders in order to test the proposed changes under the new National Offender Management Service; what the regional pathfinders are intended to test; and when they are due to start. [168839]

Paul Goggins: Discussions with the north west region to establish a pathfinder focused on offender management are well advanced, though it is too early yet to set a start date. There are discussions under way with two other regions, but final decisions about the number, focus and location of other pathfinders have yet to be taken.

National Rehabilitation Action Plan

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will publish the National Rehabilitation Action Plan. [176464]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 7 June 2004]:* We hope to publish this soon.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department was informed by the National Neighbourhood Watch Association in 2002 of improper use of the Neighbourhood Watch logo on commercial literature by other companies. [181401]

Ms Blears: The Home Office receives reports about misuse of the Neighbourhood Watch logos from various sources and appropriate action is taken. Records show that the National Neighbourhood Watch Association appear to have been involved in identifying instances of misuse by a local builder and a roofing contractor in the West Midlands during 2002. Officials provided witness statements that the logos were Crown Copyright and local Trading Standard Officers prosecuted the case.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the National Neighbourhood Watch Association followed all due processes in its registration of the Neighbourhood Watch logos; whether it used experienced trade mark patent agents in the registration process; and whether the intention to register was advertised in the appropriate journals. [181409]

Ms Blears: This is a matter for the National Neighbourhood Watch Association rather than for the Home Office.

The criticism my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, has made of the Association in relation to the registration of the logos is not that it failed to advertise appropriately, but that it failed to inform or consult us about this, even though it was aware that the logos were Crown Copyright. Neither did the Association consult police forces or local and regional Neighbourhood Watch.

Police

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the level of crime is in *(a)* Leyton and Wanstead, *(b)* the London borough of Redbridge and *(c)* the London borough of Waltham Forest; what the figures were seven years ago; and what further initiatives are being undertaken to reduce crime. [178179]

Ms Blears: Information is not available centrally for Leyton and Wanstead. The available information relates to the Redbridge and Waltham Forest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). The table, which will be placed in the Library, covers the six main offences and relates to 2002–03. Information for seven years earlier is not available for CDRPs.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ask Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to rate police performance by basic command unit area. [180047]

Ms Blears: In April 2001 we agreed a five-year cycle of inspection with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). To date they have inspected almost 60 per cent. of the country's 270 Basic Command Units (BCU). There are no plans at present to rate the inspections findings. HMIC have had input into the development of the Policing performance assessment frameworks and work with the police standards unit to monitor BCU performance on a regular basis.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers the Greater Manchester Police Force *(a)* had in 1997 and *(b)* have now; what the percentage change was in each year; and in which of the last 30 years the force had the highest number of officers. [181770]

Ms Blears: Between March 1997 and December 2003 Greater Manchester Police strength has increased by 878, or 12.25 per cent. This is better than the increase for England and Wales of 8.6 per cent. for the same period. The table sets out the information requested.

The latest published police strength is for 31 December 2003 and for Greater Manchester Police that was the highest ever published strength the force has had.

As at 31 March	*Police officer strength*[1]	*Percentage change*
1997	6,922	—
1998	6,949	+0.39
1999	6,810	-2.0
2000	6,795	-0.22
2001	6,909	+1.68
2002	7,217	+4.46
2003	7,343	+1.75
December 2003	7,770	+5.82

[1] Source for 1997 to March 2003 is the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS). December 2003 was collected separately outside of the normal data collection arrangements and has not been subject to the same validation as RDS data.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new police recruits there were in each year since 1997, broken down by constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [180625]

Ms Blears: The available information is given in the table.

Police officer recruitment—year ending 31 March

Constabulary	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*[1]2003*
Avon and Somerset	174	138	142	104	184	274	264
Bedfordshire	34	49	36	37	82	131	136
Cambridgeshire	108	65	46	23	134	134	139
Cheshire	105	94	112	36	108	158	198
Cleveland	102	71	0	68	71	105	143
Cumbria	100	79	34	23	31	84	108
Derbyshire	85	66	52	79	103	112	283
Devon and Cornwall	94	179	57	74	172	181	335
Dorset	88	129	44	87	100	99	111
Durham	116	123	106	51	83	86	131
Essex	196	124	96	93	181	233	296
Gloucestershire	67	34	64	59	89	78	139
Greater Manchester	355	437	217	286	389	583	546
Hampshire	359	201	117	152	192	211	444
Hertfordshire	148	78	79	167	110	183	320
Humberside	94	88	48	91	98	237	152
Kent	295	119	120	174	269	286	370
Lancashire	221	135	55	99	164	203	224
Leicestershire	136	118	88	67	108	150	181
Lincolnshire	121	61	6	34	119	61	103
London, City of	35	34	18	0	29	71	116
Merseyside	57	181	234	41	178	201	174
Metropolitan Police[1]	693	1,200	1,629	994	1,276	2,554	3,489
Norfolk	131	84	28	43	90	99	128
Northamptonshire	73	57	29	19	93	96	68
Northumbria	205	275	233	121	226	223	266
North Yorkshire	66	65	17	10	66	99	97
Nottinghamshire	101	111	22	104	134	226	218
South Yorkshire	323	145	130	128	183	181	172
Staffordshire	117	239	31	22	62	125	245
Suffolk	116	76	57	17	65	137	133
Surrey	61	116	138	183	240	225	187
Sussex	170	135	109	101	206	226	357
Thames Valley	212	276	153	190	237	321	458
Warwickshire	2	67	50	59	85	72	91
West Mercia	125	79	109	15	92	147	405
West Midlands	393	444	466	255	553	676	792
West Yorkshire	284	203	17	61	212	371	434
Wiltshire	30	71	49	29	75	107	96
Dyfed-Powys	48	42	50	54	58	87	87
Gwent	82	39	61	82	63	107	89
North Wales	49	48	59	79	119	90	133
South Wales	152	168	183	124	286	185	269
Total all forces	6,523	6,543	5,391	4,535	7,415	10,215	13,126

[1] Not comparable to previous recruitment figures as data includes transfers from other England and Wales forces and officers returning after a period of secondment.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers left the police force in each year since 1997, broken down by constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [180626]

Ms Blears: The available information is given in the table.

Police officer wastage

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[1]
Avon and Somerset	160	148	104	146	160	156	205
Bedfordshire	53	67	63	58	72	50	92
Cambridgeshire	61	68	66	54	70	79	107
Cheshire	71	102	72	90	85	90	113
Cleveland	56	41	78	59	81	77	59
Cumbria	79	56	60	66	69	41	59
Derbyshire	72	93	59	47	84	63	110
Devon and Cornwall	129	129	111	134	130	128	153
Dorset	66	108	64	75	69	94	68
Durham	59	79	42	58	53	65	73
Essex	114	157	122	169	141	147	214
Gloucestershire	67	65	60	53	47	63	83
Greater Manchester	378	380	346	296	304	274	374
Hampshire	142	157	137	190	186	170	224
Hertfordshire	90	95	91	115	117	113	186
Humberside	92	112	94	95	135	83	104
Kent	119	139	149	156	156	220	215
Lancashire	84	135	99	111	139	177	61
Leicestershire	94	93	94	69	72	92	127
Lincolnshire	64	74	61	67	60	65	73
London, City of[1]	43	73	58	50	55	53	59
Merseyside	241	178	136	145	157	191	195
Metropolitan Police[1]	1,351	1,561	1,725	1,477	1,098	1,262	1,727
Norfolk	101	88	64	57	62	74	92
Northamptonshire	42	57	60	38	54	42	56
Northumbria	181	204	160	151	136	161	164
North Yorkshire	58	52	44	66	62	68	57
Nottinghamshire	90	113	110	92	96	138	114
South Yorkshire	96	124	144	137	138	171	170
Staffordshire	111	161	96	81	75	105	129
Suffolk	71	64	54	56	76	60	85
Surrey	82	119	82	80	92	105	246
Sussex	186	181	201	185	186	186	242
Thames Valley	182	188	136	189	172	169	368
Warwickshire	38	66	55	38	54	47	58
West Mercia	100	99	100	102	156	117	124
West Midlands	353	446	341	327	319	494	523
West Yorkshire	206	232	198	209	223	324	254
Wiltshire	83	63	55	66	65	60	82
Dyfed-Powys	31	32	25	39	49	44	63
Gwent	56	50	50	68	58	99	61
North Wales	63	55	72	56	75	62	65
South Wales	136	153	166	131	161	141	153
Total all forces	5,951	6,657	6,104	5,948	5,849	6,420	7,783

[1] Not comparable to previous wastage figures as data do not include transfers to other England and Wales forces and officers leaving after a period of secondment.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued to police authorities and chief constables regarding the type of uniform to be worn in the presence of royalty. [178254]

Ms Blears: The Home Secretary has not issued guidance on the type of uniform to be worn in the presence of Royalty. The wearing of police uniforms is an operational matter, and is a decision for Chief Officers.

Prisons

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisons have burial grounds; and when each was last used. [180688]

Paul Goggins: The following table details prison burial grounds and when each was last used.

Prison	*Date of Internment*
Bedford	14 April 1969
Birmingham	12 November 1962
Cardiff	3 September 1952
Chelmsford	4 November 1914
Carlisle[1]	3 February 1886
Carmarthen[1]	29 November 1894
Cambridge[1]	4 November 1913
Derby[1]	27 December 1906
Dorchester[1]	24 June 1941
Durham	17 December 1958
Exeter	6 April 1943
Feltham	3 August 1945
Gloucester	7 August 1962
Holloway	13 July 1955
Hull	19 December 1934
Hereford[1]	1903
Ipswich[1]	27 November 1924
Knutsford[1]	19 March 1912
Leeds	29 June 1961

Prison	Date of Internment
Leicester	17 November 1953
Lincoln	27 January 1961
Liverpool	13 August 1964
Lewes	11 August 1914
Maidstone	8 April 1930
Manchester	13 August 1964
Newcastle[1]	16 November 1919
Norwich	19 July 1951
Northampton[1]	10 November 1914
Nottingham	8 April 1929
Oxford[1]	12 August 1952
Pentonville	6 July 1961
Ruthin[1]	17 February 1903
Reading	24 November 1910
St. Albans[1]	23 December 1914
Shepton Mallet	2 March 1926
Shrewsbury	9 February 1961
Stafford	10 March 1941
Swansea	6 May 1958
Usk	23 March 1922
Wandsworth	8 September 1961
Wakefield	19 December 1915
Winchester	6 November 1963
Worcester[1]	3 December 1919
Warwick[1]	15 December 1908

[1] Establishment no longer in existence.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners died while in prison in each of the last five years; and what the prisoner's age was in each case. [180689]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Number of deaths in prisons in England and Wales, 1999–2003

Prisoner's age at time of death	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
16	—	—	3	1	—	4
17	2	3	—	1	—	6
18	2	3	2	1	2	10
19	7	4	5	5	4	25
20	4	7	3	7	6	27
21	4	3	2	3	3	15
22	3	4	*2	1	2	12
23	3	5	5	2	*8	23
24	5	1	5	6	6	23
25	4	*4	—	6	3	17
26	8	4	2	1	4	19
27	5	3	5	3	2	18
28	5	5	1	6	4	21
29	4	1	6	6	6	23
30	7	6	5	4	7	29
31	7	6	**5	5	6	29
32	3	3	1	6	7	20
33	4	2	2	6	3	17
34	4	5	5	1	2	17
35	4	7	2	4	5	22
36	4	1	1	2	4	12
37	2	*3	*3	4	3	15
38	4	2	*4	1	4	15
39	5	*3	3	4	3	18
40	2	3	2	4	5	16
41	—	1	7	4	4	16
42	1	2	1	3	3	10
43	2	5	1	2	4	14
44	2	2	1	6	6	17
45	—	1	4	1	1	7
46	2	1	2	3	1	9
47	4	4	*3	4	2	17
48	3	—	2	—	2	7
49	1	1	2	4	1	9
50	2	2	1	3	1	9
51	2	2	*1	3	2	10
52	1	3	1	3	3	11

Number of deaths in prisons in England and Wales, 1999–2003

Prisoner's age at time of death	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
53	1	1	1	3	3	9
54	2	1	*2	2	1	8
55	2	2	2	3	2	11
56	2	2	1	2	4	11
57	—	2	1	1	3	7
58	2	1	3	2	4	12
59	—	—	3	3	1	7
60	*1	2	2	1	4	10
61	2	2	1	3	—	8
62	1	2	3	—	7	13
63	1	1	—	2	3	7
64	4	—	2	—	1	7
65	1	—	1	2	2	6
66	—	2	1	—	1	4
67	—	1	1	2	2	6
68	2	2	1	1	2	8
69	—	1	2	2	3	8
70	—	1	4	3	2	10
71	1	1	1	—	1	4
72	2	—	2	—	1	5
73	1	2	1	1	1	6
74	—	—	—	—	2	2
75	1	4	—	2	1	8
76	—	1	1	1	2	5
77	—	1	1	1	—	3
78	—	—	1	2	—	3
79	—	—	—	—	—	0
80	—	—	1	—	—	1
81	1	—	2	1	1	5
82	—	—	1	—	—	1
83	—	1	—	—	1	2
84	—	—	—	—	—	0
85	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	149	146	142	166	184	787

* Each asterisk represents a natural cause death that is included on the Prison Service database, but occurred outside of prison, for example, deaths of prisoners who absconded or who were on home leave.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of drug treatment and testing order participants in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2002 reoffended in 2003 in Nottinghamshire. [168210]

Paul Goggins: This information is not available.

A Home Office study published in 2003 (Home Office Research Findings No. 184) of the two year reconviction rates of the three drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) pilots sites showed an overall reconviction rate of 80 per cent. for the 174 DTTO offenders for whom criminal records were located on the Home Office's offenders index database. There were statistically significant differences in reconviction rates between those whose orders were revoked (91 per cent.) and those who completed their orders (53 per cent.).

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether, under the increased use of contestability, in-house bid teams from the Prison Service will compete directly with the private sector for the operation of existing prison establishments; [168426]

(2) whether, under the increased use of contestability, private sector providers will be required to compete for the operation of existing prison establishments directly with the public sector provider. [168427]

Paul Goggins: One of the key principles underpinning the establishment of the National Offender Management Service is the use of contestability to improve the quality and efficiency of services to offenders. As part of this, we expect to announce a programme of market testing existing prison establishments. The private and public sectors will be invited to compete for the operation of the prisons.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the measures proposed in the national rehabilitation programme regarding accommodation outcomes for prisoners. [181073]

Paul Goggins: The Government will be publishing a national action plan to reduce reoffending in the summer. This will bring together work across Departments and agencies. It will include the development of a national accommodation strategy for offenders, mapping out action over the short and longer term to improve accommodation outcomes for released prisoners.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many positive mandatory drug tests there were, broken down by drug type, in *(a)* open prisons and *(b)* closed prisons in each of the last 10 years. [169088]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service mandatory drug testing programme has been in operation since 1996–97. Yearly figures for the number of positive mandatory drug tests broken down by drug type in *(a)* open prisons and *(b)* closed prisons are given in the table. Figures for 2003–04 are not yet available.

Number of positive tests broken down by drug type

Drug type	*1996–97*	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Cannabis							
Open	983	983	963	842	805	718	953
Closed	16,494	15,490	13,739	11,602	8,647	6,926	7,242
Opiates							
Open	188	193	219	341	349	409	329
Closed	5,589	4,831	5,454	6,794	7,592	6,553	4,375
Cocaine							
Open	23	30	35	47	40	67	59
Closed	215	257	292	372	432	373	327
Benzodiazepines							
Open	34	29	40	40	24	23	40
Closed	1,448	1,382	1,487	1,668	1,822	1,524	1,404
Methadone							
Open	3	1	2	0	1	1	0
Closed	244	149	76	88	73	62	64
Amphetamines							
Open	4	22	25	18	19	16	15
Closed	182	173	124	115	69	67	48
Barbiturates							
Open	1	0	5	0	0	3	2
Closed	25	45	32	36	17	20	15
LSD							
Open	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Closed	2	3	—	1	0	0	0
Buprenorphine							
Open	—	—	—	0	0	0	1
Closed	—	—	—	0	270	355	368
Total[1,2]							
Open	1,236	1,258	1,289	1,288	1,238	1,237	1,399
Closed	24,199	22,330	21,204	20,676	18,922	15,880	13,843

[1] A prisoner may test positive for more than one drug in each test.

[2] Until August 2000 10 per cent. of prisoners were subject to random mandatory drug tests each month. Since that date establishments holding more than 400 prisoners have been required to test only 5 per cent. each month.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target he has been set for the number of hours of purposeful activity to be completed by prisoners in 2004–05. [181492]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* No annual target for the number of hours of purposeful activity has been set for 2004–05. However, individual prisons will still agree a specific target for the average number of hours of purposeful activity per prisoner, per week.

Purposeful activity remains an important measure. However, the introduction of specific Key Performance Indicators for prisoner educational achievement, rehabilitation and resettlement provides a more focussed measure of the work being undertaken in prisons to reduce re-offending.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluations are carried out, upon entry to prison, of the learning abilities of individual prisoners; and whether they can identify conditions such as dyslexia. [169134]

Paul Goggins: Past research suggests that the proportion of prisoners suffering from dyslexia could range from four to over 17 per cent. The new prison dyslexia project, currently under way in Yorkshire and Humberside, is designed to provide an authoritative answer to the question of the incidence of dyslexia and related learning disabilities among the prison population. A full report is expected at the end of the summer.

All establishments provide screening and initial assessment for prisoners. Potential dyslexia indicators can be identified through them. New diagnostic assessments for prisoners, to be administered after initial assessment by a specialist teacher, will offer guidance on when to refer learners for a full dyslexia assessment with an educational psychologist or other appropriately trained person.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in each of the last three years the interception of a prisoner's communications has been authorised under Prison Rule 35A. [180126]

Paul Goggins: All telephone calls made on PIN phones by prisoners have been intercepted under Prison Rule 35A since the phased introduction of the PIN phone system at establishments over the period June 2001 to December 2003. Figures for the number of calls made in each of the last three years are not available but, as an indication of the volume, 55,261 calls were made on the PIN phone system on 21 June 2004. Numbers would have been progressively lower in earlier years as the PIN phone system was installed.

A small proportion of PIN phone calls are listened to. Prior to the introduction of the PIN phone system at each establishment a small proportion of the calls made by prisoners were listened to, and that remains the case for three establishments not on the PIN phone system today.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of prisoners at HMP Kingston *(a)* aged under 65 and *(b)* aged over 65 are (i) employed and (ii) unemployed. [180127]

Paul Goggins: Kingston prison currently holds 120 prisoners under the age of 65, 119 of whom are employed. There are 14 prisoners aged 65 or over, nine of whom are employed. Employment is available at Kingston for all those who wish to work and are fit enough to do so.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil cases against the Prison Service relating to *(a)* deaths in custody, *(b)* medical negligence, *(c)* assaults and *(d)* prison discipline charges reached the courts in each of the last five years; and in how many cases the Prison Service (i) won, (ii) lost and (iii) settled out of court. [180128]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide all of the figures requested, as they are not collated in this format. However, between April 1999 and 31 March 2004, 565 assaults claims and 226 clinical negligence claims have been initiated. Statistics on discipline, deaths in custody and cases won, lost and settled are not readily available.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in England and Wales have been detained beyond the expiration of their sentence in each of the last five years; and for what length of time in each case. [180130]

Paul Goggins: Unfortunately, the information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the awer of 19 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 326W, on prisons, if he will provide the figures excluding remand prisoners. [180137]

Paul Goggins: The information sought is not available. The Prison Service collates data by prison establishment, rather than at individual prisoner level. Although data can be aggregated to the level of establishment function and the majority of remand prisoners are held in 'local' prisons, these prisoners constitute only an element of the population and it is not possible to exclude the activity undertaken specifically by remand prisoners.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the prison population of each member state of the European Union was on 1 May. [177834]

Paul Goggins: The Home Office has collected information on the prison population for each member state of the European Union from official sources. The most recent information relates to 2003.

Prison population[1]

Country	*2003*	*Rate*[10] *per 100,000 population in 2003*
England and Wales[2]	72,992	140
Northern Ireland	1,128	66
Scotland[3]	6,524	129
Austria[4]	[12]	[11]93
Belgium[3]	9,039	87

Prison population[1]

Country	*2003*	*Rate*[10] *per 100,000 population in 2003*
Cyprus	358	50
Czech Republic[5]	17,277	169
Denmark	3,522	65
Estonia[6]	4,352	321
Finland[5]	3,463	66
France[7]	57,440	93
Germany[8]	79,153	96
Greece	8,418	[12]—
Hungary[5]	16,507	163
Ireland (Eire)	3,101	[12]—
Italy	56,761	98
Latvia	8,135	344
Lithuania [6]	11,070	320
Luxembourg	498	111
Malta	281	71
Netherlands	[12]—	[11]101
Poland[2]	80,692	211
Portugal	14,060	135
Slovakia	8,829	164
Slovenia	1,099	55
Spain	55,244	132
Sweden [9]	6,755	75

[1] At 1 September: number of prisoners including pre-trial detainees.
[2] At 31 August.
[3] Average daily population.
[4] Annual averages.
[5] At 31 December.
[6] At 1 January.
[7] Metropolitan and overseas departments.
[8] At 31 December until 2002, then at 30 November.
[9] At 1 October.
[10] Based on estimates of national population.
[11] In 2002.
[12] Data not available.

Source:
Statistical contacts in each country; International Centre for Prison Studies, Kings College, London (World Prison Population Brief at www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/rel/icps).

Probation Service

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff taken on by the national probation service since December 1999 are probation service officers; and how many are qualified to complete pre-sentence reports and parole assessments. [168394]

Paul Goggins: The table gives the number of probation service officers (PSOs) recruited in each year since December 1999.

England and Wales[1,2]

	Probation Service Officers
1999	2,502
2000	2,869
2001	3,566
2002	4,083
30 June 2003[3]	[4]4,807
30 September 2003[5]	5,205

[1] Numbers shown as whole-time equivalents.
[2] Information shown taken at 31 December.
[3] Figures taken from Issue 01, Workforce Information Report published January 2004.
[4] Adjusted figure. As a result of checks made with regards to the data submitted for Quarter 2, against that which was submitted for Quarter 1, a small number of areas adjusted and corrected their original returns for Quarter 1.
[5] Figures taken from Issue 02, Workforce Information Report due to be published April 2004.

PSOs now perform much of the low risk work previously carried out by probation officers, which has in turn allowed probation officers to concentrate on high risk offenders and the completion of those reports that require their level of developed competence. While overall responsibility rests with the supervising probation officer, PSOs frequently contribute to parole assessments. They are also involved in the completion of short format reports.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost per square metre of providing office and storage space in Brecon, Powys was for *(a)* the Powys Probation Service in 2000 and *(b)* the National Probation Service in Brecon in 2003. [177733]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 10 June 2004]:* The premises costs, including telephones of the Powys Probation Area in the financial year 2000–01 was £73,000, equivalent to £116 per square metre.

With effect from 2003–04, all costs across the whole of the National Probation Estate were paid centrally and pooled. The national average cost per square metre was set at £180. The Dyfed-Powys Probation Area received extra grant income totalling £132,000 to help compensate for the increase in costs.

Recidivism

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he is taking to prevent offences being committed by individuals released on bail. [171771]

Paul Goggins: The Government are determined to ensure that the courts give proper and careful consideration before exercising their discretion to grant bail where defendants who are already on bail commit an offence. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 provides that a defendant who applies for bail in respect of an offence that appears to have been committed while he was on bail for another offence may not be granted bail unless the court is satisfied that there is no significant risk of his offending again.

Refugees (Active Assistance)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the EU draft communication on active assistance for refugees in or near their country of origin will be available. [181039]

Mr. Browne: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1380W, in which I confirmed that the European Commission tabled its communication

> "On the managed entry in the EU of persons in need of international protection and the enhancement of the protection capacity of the regions of origin: Improving access to durable solutions"

(COM(2004)410 final) on 4 June 2004.

Rehabilitation Action Plan

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the rehabilitation action plan will be published. [182321]

Paul Goggins: The Government will be publishing a national action plan to reduce re-offending in the summer.

Risk of Sexual Harm Orders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many risk of sexual harm orders have been issued. [181075]

Paul Goggins: Risk of sexual harm orders were provided for by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which came into force on 1 May 2004. Information on the number of orders made will be collected from the courts annually and the figures for 2004 will be available in the autumn of 2005.

Sentencing Guidelines Council

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the work of the Sentencing Guidelines Council. [181074]

Paul Goggins: The Sentencing Guidelines Council was established to produce a comprehensive set of guidelines for all courts, enabling them to approach a case from a common starting point. All courts will be required to take the guidelines into account when sentencing offenders, which will lead to greater consistency in sentencing. The Council members were appointed at the end of February and it has met three times so far.

Substance Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what advice he has given on civil and criminal liability for overdose deaths caused by treatment decisions made by non-medically trained drugs case managers under the National Offender Management Service; [180296]

(2) what training in medicine will be required for a drugs caseworker making decisions on drugs treatment under the National Offender Management Service. [180297]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 24 June 2004]*: Treatment for drug misuse may involve clinical interventions (for example detoxification and prescribing) and non-clinical interventions (for example advice on lifestyle and thinking skills). Decisions on the clinical management of individual drug misusers are, and will remain, the responsibility of appropriately qualified health care professionals. Training in medicine is therefore not required for drug caseworkers, although they will be aware in general terms of the pharmacological effects of different drugs.

Teachers (Sexual Abuse)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that teachers accused of sexual abuse are told the nature of the accusation at the start of the investigation. [180015]

Ms Blears: The police and other relevant agencies always agree jointly when to inform a teacher accused of sexual abuse of a child where criminal proceedings are being considered. The document "Working Together to Safeguard Children" contains guidance on the handling of such allegations and was produced jointly by the Home Office, Department of Health, Department for Education and Skills in December 1999. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) were involved in producing the guidance.

The rights of all suspects are protected by the Codes of Practice produced under Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) at all stages of an investigation.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether sexual abuse allegations against teachers remain on file when allegations are proved to be false. [180002]

Ms Blears: Information may be retained by the police when, in their judgement, and having regard to the particular circumstances, there is an operational ground for doing so—for instance, in the interest of the prevention or detection of crime, or public safety, or protection of the vulnerable. The need to continue to keep information must be reviewed in the light of such considerations. We shall be reviewing guidance issued to the police in light of the report of the Bichard Inquiry into matters arising from the Soham case.

DEFENCE

Advisers

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* political advisers, *(b)* management consultants, *(c)* accountants and *(d)* legal advisers in the last 12 months. [181766]

Mr. Caplin *[holding reply 1 July 2004]*: The Ministry of Defence is currently preparing a summary of the External Assistance expenditure for Financial Year 2003–04. This includes categories for Management Consultants, Accountants and Legal Advisers. This information will be placed in the Library of the Houses shortly. Once this takes place I will write to the hon. gentlemen.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 16 July 2003, (*Official Report*, column 329W) to my hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, Central (Mr. Geraint Davies) setting out information about political advisers.

Air Tanker

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from Marshall Aerospace in respect of air-to-air refuelling capability; and if he will make a statement on progress with the private finance initiative project for a new air tanker. [180499]

Mr. Ingram: Marshall Aerospace has written to the Ministry of Defence a number of times with unsolicited proposals to provide future air refuelling capability. The Ministry of Defence is currently assessing whether future air refuelling requirements can be provided, at best value for money, through a PFI service contract with AirTanker Ltd., a consortium comprising EADS,

Rolls Royce, Cobham and Thales. Discussions with AirTanker Ltd. are ongoing. No final decision has been made.

British-French Co-operation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the letters of intent that pledge further co-operation between the British and French armies and navies, signed on 9 June. [180560]

Mr. Moon *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* I will arrange for copies of the United Kingdom and French Navy and Army Letters of Intent concerning co-operation signed on 9 June to be placed in the Library. The Annex giving information relating to operational and technical matters for the Navy is being withheld under exemption 1b and 1c of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Cadet Forces

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* current recruited number is of (i) cadets and (ii) officers and other adult instructors in each of the cadet forces. [160979]

Mr. Caplin: The information is as follows:

Establishments for affiliated Cadet Organisations.

Navy—There is no establishment number.

Army—There is no actual ACF Cadet establishment number.

Air Force—The Air Cadet Organisation has a cadet establishment of 50,000 cadets and 16,225 Officers. (June 2003)

Combined Cadet Force—The CCF is established for 48,663 cadets, and 2,118 officers.

Civil Service (Relocation)

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180181]

Mr. Caplin: The Lyons Report gives details of the Ministry of Defence's relocation plans, which are being taken forward and refined as a part of the Spending Review.

Civilian Internees (Compensation)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether those who were excluded from the compensation scheme for civilian internees of the Japanese were individually interviewed. [177809]

Mr. Caplin: The Veterans' Agency (formerly the War Pensions Agency), which administers the scheme, has a dedicated section dealing specifically with the ex gratia payment scheme. Although they have no formal interview process the section does provide advice on eligibility and on finding the evidence required to complete the application forms.

Correspondence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for North Norfolk dated 29 April 2004 concerning BAE Systems and Robert Lee International. [181833]

Mr. Ingram: My noble Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement (Lord Bach), wrote to the hon. Member on 25 May 2004, within our 15 working day target for answering ministerial correspondence.

Gurkhas

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of the Gurkhas was in each of the last five years; and in which countries they were deployed in the armed forces. [181646]

Mr. Caplin: The strength of the Brigade of Gurkhas during each of the last five years, as at 1 July and the countries in which they were deployed, were as follows:

	Countries	*Number*
1999	Kosovo, East Timor	3,354
2000	Kosovo, Falklands, Bosnia, Sierra Leone	3,361
2001	Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Falklands, Macedonia	3,485
2002	Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone	3,473
2003	Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Iraq	3,416
2004	Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan[1]	3,394

[1] To date.

In addition, Gurkhas are permanently present in the United Kingdom and Brunei; and a small recruiting and administration staff is maintained in Nepal.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people wished to be considered for service in the Gurkhas, and what the average selection time was, in the last three years. [181647]

Mr. Caplin: The numbers of applicants who wished to be considered for service in either the British Gurkhas or the Gurkha Contingent of the Singapore Police Force in each of the last three years are shown as follows. Initially, applicants are treated as potential recruits for either force until they are assigned during the selection process. The selection process each year takes 17 days, but due to conditions in Nepal this is spread over a four month period.

	Numbers applying
2001–02	25,413
2002–03	26,797
2003–04	22,521

Iraq

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 4–5WS, on Iraq, what the alleged offences which have been subject to further investigation since 4 May are; and whether he expects further new investigations in addition to the 14 initiated. [179014]

Mr. Ingram: Of the 14 cases subject to further investigation since 4 May noted in my statement of 8 June, 10 concern shooting incidents which occurred when UK soldiers were attacked and returned fire. The remaining four relate to allegations of ill-treatment. Since the statement was made a further four investigations have been initiated all of which concern fire fights with Iraqis. Given the difficult security environment in which our armed forces continue to operate in Iraq and our policy of investigating allegations and incidents, further investigations cannot be ruled out.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 4–5WS, on Iraq, who is responsible for ensuring information on all investigations by service police into incidents in Iraq is collated; and where such information is held; [179019]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 4–5WS, on Iraq, who is responsible for incorporating details of investigations from all branches of service police. [179015]

Mr. Ingram: The various service police branches are responsible for maintaining their own records. Information on investigations into alleged ill-treatment of Iraqi civilians by United Kingdom service personnel is currently being collated from various sources by the Adjutant General's Department.

Lance Corporal William Graham

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role has been played by the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots Regiment in the training of the new Iraqi police force and army; and what duties in this regard were undertaken by Lance Corporal William Graham. [175973]

Mr. Ingram: 1st Battalion the Royal Scots Regiment deployed three companies to Iraq in support of 20 Armoured Brigade from December 2003 to April 2004. One company was responsible for training the Iraqi Police Service, and during this time trained approximately 3,000 policemen across the four sectors of the Basrah Rural Division. Lance Corporal Graham did not deploy to Iraq.

Light Multi-role Vehicle

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress in introducing the Army's Light Multi-role Vehicle. [181484]

Mr. Ingram: The Alvis Vickers Limited Multi-role Light Vehicle, known as the Future Command and Liaison Vehicle (FCLV), will meet the Army's requirement for enhanced agility, reliability, flexibility and protection. FCLV is planned to enter service in 2007 and will enable users from the Combat, Combat Support and Combat Service Support arms to carry out their roles across the whole spectrum of conflict. A contract for the Demonstration and Manufacture phases of the Future Command and Liaison Vehicle was awarded in November 2003, with the manufacture of production vehicles scheduled to start at the beginning of 2006.

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to question ref 178616 tabled by the hon. Member for North Norfolk. [181834]

Mr. Hoon: I replied to the hon. Member on 30 June 2004, (*Official Report*, column 355W).

Pensions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* cash provision and *(b)* cash outturn was for the (i) War Pensions Benefits Programme costs, (ii) War Pensions Benefits Programme costs—Far Eastern Prisoners of War and (iii) War Pensions Benefits Programme costs—British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association request for resources three subheads in financial years (A) 2001–02, (B) 2002–03 and (C) 2003–04. [181776]

Mr. Caplin: In accordance with the Government Resource Accounting Act 2000 the Department's financial performance is reported to Parliament in the Consolidated Resource Accounts. The 2001–02 Accounts for War Pension Benefits Programme costs came under the Department for Social Security, now the Department for Work and Pensions, and their accounts were laid on 30 October 2002 ref: HC 1198. The 2002–03 Ministry of Defence Accounts were laid on 30 October 2003 ref: HC 1125. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The 2003–04 Accounts are yet to be laid before the House. The Ministry of Defence is not required to and does not account for cash under the headings upon which information is sought. Cash requirements are accounted for at Departmental level and details of Estimate and Outturn are included in Schedule 1 of the Resource Accounts.

Plastic Baton Rounds

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of plastic baton rounds available for use by British forces in Iraq have been transported from Northern Ireland after expiry of their use-by date. [176310]

Mr. Ingram: None.

RAF Chilmark

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has concluded a sale of the whole of the site of former RAF Chilmark; whether work continues on the removal of ordnance; and if he will make a statement. [179476]

Mr. Caplin: I can confirm that the site containing the HQ buildings and officers mess, has been cleared of ordnance and the sale was completed on 12 March 2004. The proof yard has also now been cleared and will be sold to the purchasers of the HQ site subject to a satisfactory land quality assessment. The only part of the site now awaiting disposal is Ladydown which is heavily contaminated. Clearance could take two to three years and disposal cannot proceed until this work is complete.

RAF Logistic Support Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* initial resource provision, *(b)* in-year variations, *(c)* resource outturn, *(d)* gross operating cost and *(e)* net operating cost for the RAF Logistic Support Service was for financial year 1999–2000. [181743]

Mr. Ingram: The RAF Logistic Support Service was integrated with other organisations in 1999–2000 to form the Defence Logistics Organisation. It ceased to be an agency on 31 March 2000 and since no accounts direction was given by HM Treasury, separate accounts were not produced for the agency to cover 1999–2000. As a result, to provide the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

RAF Personnel Management Agency

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* initial resource provision, *(b)* in-year variations and *(c)* resource outturn for the RAF Personnel Management Agency was for financial years 1999–2000 to 2003–04. [181744]

Mr. Ingram: The RAF Personnel Management Agency's outturn was:

Financial Year	*Outturn £ million*
1999–2000	14.371
2000–2001	14.209
2001–2002	14.978
2002–2003	14.645
2003–2004	13.989

Note:
RAF PMA comprises Air Sec, GT&S and ONCA

I am not able to provide figures for initial resource provision or in-year variations as a direct comparison cannot be made with either published estimates or formal external reports.

Refurbishment Costs

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on refurbishment since 1997. [181767]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* "Refurbishment" is not a term which Ministry of Defence uses in gathering or recording financial information about the estate. Work on buildings which might be categorised as "refurbishment" can range from minor modifications and maintenance, to the complete restoration of buildings, and the maintenance of machinery such as lifts.

Royal Scots Regiment

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many practice firing ranges were available to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots Regiment during its tour of duty in Iraq. [175974]

Mr. Ingram: In common with all coalition forces in Iraq, 1st Battalion the Royal Scots Regiment had and have access to firing ranges as required.

Special Investigation Branch

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the status of the outstanding Special Investigation Branch investigations into United Kingdom actions towards Iraqis. [172868]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 May 2004]:* Since the statement I made to the House on 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 4–5WS), a further four incidents have been initiated, making a total of 79 cases which have been investigated or are under investigation by the Service Police. Of these, 33 are under investigation, 35 have been closed, nine have been referred to the Army Prosecuting Authority and two have been directed for trial.

Top Level Budget Holders

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* cash provision and *(b)* cash outturn was in financial years (i) 2001–02 and (ii) 2002–03 for the (A) 2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, (B) Adjutant General, (C) Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command, (D) Central, (E) Defence Procurement Agency and (F) Major Customers' Research Budget top level budget holders; [181784]

(2) what the *(a)* cash provision and *(b)* cash outturn was in financial years (i) 2001–02 and (ii) 2002–03 for the (A) Commander-in-Chief Fleet, (B) General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland), (C) Commander-in-Chief Land Command, (D) Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command, (E) Chief of Joint Operations and (F) Chief of Defence Logistics top level budget holders; [181783]

(3) what the *(a)* cash provision and *(b)* cash outturn in the financial year 2003–04 was for the (i) 2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, (ii) Adjutant General, (iii) Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command, (iv) Central, (v) Defence Procurement Agency and (vi) Major Customers' Research Budget top level budget holders; [181778]

(4) what the *(a)* cash provision and *(b)* cash outturn in the financial year 2003–04 was for the (i) Commander-in-Chief Fleet, (ii) General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland), (iii) Commander-in-Chief Land Command, (iv) Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command, (v) Chief of Joint Operations and (vi) Chief of Defence Logistics top level budget holders. [181777]

Mr. Ingram: Following the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) in 2001–02 Ministry of Defence Top Level Budget holders have been given budgets in resource terms rather than cash. Estimated Resource provisions for all MOD TLBs for 2003–04 was published in the Main Estimates with any revisions up to the turn of the year included in Supplementary Estimates. Provisional outturn figures for the MOD will be published in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper in July. Final figures, including a Departmental Cash Flow Statement, will be available when the Annual Report and Accounts is published at the end of September.

UN Operations

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* disciplinary proceedings have been undertaken, *(b)* criminal charges have been brought and *(c)* charges have been dropped in relation to the actions of United Kingdom forces towards Iraqis. [172869]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 May 2004]:* No disciplinary measures under the Army Act 1955 have been taken against any individuals in connection with alleged abuses of Iraqi civilians. Criminal charges have been brought in two cases involving five individuals, proceedings have yet to take place. None of these charges have been dropped.

Watchkeeper Programme

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he intends to seek a revised or confirmed bid from each of the consortia bidding for the watchkeeper programme; and when he intends to announce a decision on the preferred bidder. [180796]

Mr. Ingram: The competition for the Watchkeeper Demonstration, Manufacture and Initial Support phase is ongoing. It would be inappropriate to comment on the conduct of the competitive process. Timing of any announcement is dependent upon satisfactory completion of continuing assessment activities.

HEALTH

Anti-depressants

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why Professor A. Breckenridge was asked to leave the room during the Committee on Safety of Medicines discussion of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor safety information at its meeting on 22 October 1998. [178694]

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why Professor A. Breckenridge was asked to leave the room during the Committee on Safety of Medicines discussion of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors safety information at its meeting of 22 October 1998. [178301]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The minutes of the Committee on Safety of Medicines of 22 October 1998 refer to Professor Breckenridge declaring a non-specific personal interest and leaving the room, not that he was asked to leave the room.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality and *(b)* outcome of the 1998 review of the risk of dependence on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and related anti-depressants conducted by the Sub-Committee on Pharmacovigilance. [178477]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The then Medicines Control Agency (MCA) conducted a review of withdrawal reactions associated with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and related antidepressants which was considered by the Sub-Committee on Pharmacovigilance on 24 February 1998 and the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) on 26 March 1998. The CSM endorsed the conclusions of the Sub-Committee on Pharmacovigilance, that all SSRIs were associated with withdrawal reactions, and that no strong evidence from any source had been identified to suggest that the SSRIs and related antidepressants cause features of dependence other than withdrawal symptoms.

A separate review of all available data was subsequently conducted by the European Scientific Advisory Committee, the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) with France and Germany as lead member states. The conclusions of this review were consistent with those of the CSM and were published in a CPMP position paper in 2000.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he gives on the optimal dose for selective seratonin uptake inhibitors and related anti-depressant drugs. [179672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As with all medicines, the recommendations for dosing of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are provided in the product information for prescribes, the summary of product characteristics, and in the patient information leaflet.

On 11 March 2004 the Committee on Safety of Medicines issued advice reminding prescribers of the recommended starting dose of one SSRI—paroxetine (Seroxat). This followed re-review of the original dose finding studies for paroxetine and consideration of data which suggested a proportion of patients were being started on doses of paroxetine above those recommended for the treatment of depressive illness.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of the *(a)* Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and *(b)* Committee on Safety of Medicines in communicating to users the risks of dependence on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor and related drugs. [178335]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) informed prescribers about the potential for withdrawal reactions with paroxetine and other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) via articles in the bulletin current problems in pharmacovigilance in 1993 and again in 2000. An information sheet for patients about use of SSRIs in the September 2003 edition of current problems in pharmacovigilance highlighted the issue of withdrawal reactions. This was drafted with the input of patient representatives from the CSM's expert working group on safety of SSRIs. There have been warnings about the possibility of withdrawal reactions with paroxetine listed in the product information for prescribers since the drug was first licensed in 1990. These warnings are also reflected in the patient information leaflet. Ministers are satisfied with the actions taken by the MHRA and CSM in this area.

Bounty Packs

Mrs. Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of the distribution and content of Bounty

packs in maternity units with the World Health Organisation's international code of marketing of breast milk substitutes; [171076]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the content of Bounty packs provided to new mothers in maternity units for the Government's policy of increasing the number of women who breastfeed and increasing the length of time for which they breastfeed; [171160]

(3) what discussions the Department has had with the producers of Bounty packs concerning the content of such packs. [171161]

Miss Melanie Johnson: We have not made an assessment of the contents of Bounty packs provided to new mothers in maternity units or the compliance of their distribution with the World Health Organisation's international code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes. We are fully committed to the promotion of breastfeeding as the best nutrition for infants. We have a commitment in the NHS Plan for increased support for breastfeeding and have set a target to increase breastfeeding initiation rates by 2 per cent. in the priority and planning framework 2003–06, with particular focus on women from disadvantaged groups. The Department has produced an evidence based breastfeeding resource 'Good Practice and Innovation in Breastfeeding' to support health professionals delivering the target. We are also working with Bounty and Baby Welcome to include our leaflet 'How to Breastfeed' in Bounty packs.

Care Homes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 27 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1833W, on care homes, how many care homes closed in *(a)* 2002–03 and *(b)* 2003–04; and if he will make a statement. [178545]

Dr. Ladyman: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that information is only available on the number of homes de-registering. De-registrations will include homes that are to be permanently closed but will also include, for example, homes that temporarily de-register and then re-register in order to change the services that they provide to their residents. Numbers of permanent closures cannot be separately identified.

Information on the number of homes registered and de-registered is shown in the tables.

	Care homes	
	Registered	*De-registered*
2002–03	1,902	3,060
2003–04	2,653	3,400

Critical Care Networks (Transfers)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of transfers within critical care networks for non-clinical reasons in each year since 1996; and if he will make a statement. [180284]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect validated data on critical care transfers for non-clinical reasons. However, un-validated management information, collected weekly from the national health service, shows the reported transfers of critically ill patients between hospitals for non-clinical reasons. This information is not broken down by critical care networks and has only been collected since 2000. The information has been used to produce the annual estimates shown in the table.

	Estimated number of non-clinical critical care transfers
2000–01	3,899
2001–02	2,582
2002–03	2,201
2003–04	1,820

Dentistry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which English dental schools *(a)* he or ministerial colleagues and *(b)* members of the senior civil service have visited in the last six months. [178262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State and Ministers have not visited dental schools in the last six months. Senior civil servants are in regular discussion with representatives of dental schools. In the last six months, senior officials have visited the Eastman Dental Institute, Guy's, King's and St. Thomas' Dental Institute, the Royal London Dental School, Manchester Dental School and Birmingham Dental School.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 680–81W, on dentistry, when the British Dental Association and other dental organisations will receive the draft new base contract for NHS dentists with the proposed contract values. [179783]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* We will be working closely with the British Dental Association (BDA) and the national health service to develop a simple and robust base contract that all primary care trusts and practices will be able to put in place from 2005. Details of the base contract are still under discussion, a further negotiating meeting with the BDA is scheduled to take place in July. We plan to publish draft regulations and model contracts for consultation by October 2004.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 680–81W, on dentistry, what methods are under consideration to enable NHS dentists to know for which patients they have responsibility for NHS treatment. [R] [179784]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* Primary care trusts, as commissioners, will need to know the numbers who are accessing national health service dental treatment in their local area. Dentists will need to maintain records about the patients they are treating and the Dental Practice Board will be able to provide the information for them to do so. Patients will want to know which dentist they can see when they need treatment.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of calls to NHS Direct in 2003–04 *(a)* in total and *(b)* to the Stafford call centre were about NHS dentistry. [180189]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct started collecting data centrally relating to calls made to NHS Direct about national health service dentistry in January 2003. Between January 2003 and February 2004, the proportion of total calls to NHS Direct about NHS dentistry was 3.8 per cent. Over the same period, the proportion of total calls to the NHS Direct call centre in Stafford about NHS dentistry was 7.4 per cent.

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he has taken to improve access to NHS dentists in Cornwall. [179270]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Nationally, we have provided new investment totalling £90 million over the last year. £59 million will support access and strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been advised of their shares and are working with their primary care trusts (PCTs) to address access issues. £30 million is to support information technology and the balance of £1 million will support organisational development locally.

The PCTs in Cornwall are working closely with the South West Peninsula SHA, supported by the shadow special health authority (dentistry) to improve local dental access using their share of the access funds: some £1.56 million in 2004–05.

There is currently one dental access centre operating in Cornwall, which last year treated over 23,000 patients. In addition, the whole of the South West Peninsula SHA area has been identified as an "Options for Change" field site and dentists are increasingly opting for the new ways of working that personal dental services allows. A total of thirty practices across the South West Peninsula have now adopted local contracts with their PCTs under "Options for Change".

We are specifically aware of access issues in the South West Peninsula (Devon and Cornwall) and officials from the shadow special health authority for dentistry visited the area at the beginning of June 2004 to see what additional help could be provided.

Under consideration is the area's inclusion within a recruitment initiative to supply international dentists.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies for each year since 1997. [181729]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is available in the annual publication, "Civil Service Statistics", which is published by the Cabinet Office. Copies of "Civil Service Statistics 2002", which was published on 24 July 2003 and copies of "Civil Service Statistics" for the previous years are available in the Library and at www.civil-service.gov.uk/statistics.

Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on adverse reactions to *(a)* synthetic insulin and *(b)* animal insulin; and if he will make a statement. [181188]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Clinical trials carried out by the marketing authorisation holder for synthetic and animal insulins were evaluated at the time of licensing to ensure that these products met appropriate standards of safety, quality and efficacy to justify their use in the treatment of diabetes. Full guidance on prescribing and the use of synthetic and animal insulins, including possible side effects, is provided in the product information for prescribers via the summary of product characteristics and for patients via the patient information leaflet.

Since the marketing of these products, although no formal research has been commissioned, the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) and its sub-committee on pharmacovigilance (SCOP) have kept the safety of synthetic (human) and animal insulins under close review. These committees have considered the available data, including an independent review of clinical trial data by the Cochrane collaboration and any new publications, on a number of occasions. The most recent consideration in 2002 confirmed the committees' previous advice that, although some patients have experienced problems on transferring to human insulin and are better suited to animal derived insulins, there is no evidence of a safety concern specific to human insulin. Prescribers have been informed of this advice via the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency/CSM drug safety bulletin, "Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance".

Drinking Water

Ms Shipley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the implications for children's health of a lack of access to drinking water during the day. [182057]

Dr. Ladyman: The importance of children having access to a wholesome supply of drinking water is recognised in guidance relating to schools and within advice issued by NHS Direct and the Department on nutrition and maintaining a healthy life style.

Drug Purchasing

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the benefits of creating buying groups for drug purchase across all health authorities. [179791]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 June 2004]:* For many years, national health service hospital contracting for pharmaceuticals in England has been organised on a group basis. Hospital pharmacists, on behalf of their NHS trusts, aggregate their hospital business which is then competitively tendered by the NHS Purchasing and Supply and Agency (NHS PASA). The groups adjudicate the framework agreements that are then awarded and managed, on their behalf, by NHS PASA. The approach is highly structured in terms of timing and management, and the groups share

information and develop shared strategies through arrangements co-ordinated at the national level, by NHS PASA, to optimise performance.

The 2003 review of the group contracts, commissioned by the Department, will lead to the introduction of national contracts for near patent expiry and generic medicines. These contracts are scheduled to start on 1 November 2004.

Community contractors do not have access to these framework agreements.

General Practitioners (Murston)

Mr. Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for additional general practitioner surgeries in Murston; and if he will make a statement. [182271]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with the principles of "Shifting the Balance of Power", it is for local primary care trusts to decide whether extra surgeries are needed and if they are, where they should be located and how they should be funded in order to meet national and local priorities. Since 1 April 2004, premises growth funding has been allocated to the national health service, rather than being held centrally. This funding is for the improvement or replacement of primary care premises, whether or not through the local improvement finance trust initiative.

Generic Drugs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change in the cost of generic drugs was in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [179407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the number, net ingredient cost (NIC) and average NIC per prescription item for medicines prescribed and dispensed generically in the community in England during the period 2001–03 are shown in the table.

Prescribed and dispensed generically

	Number of prescription items (million)	*NIC (£ million)*	*Average ingredient cost per prescription (£)*
2001	297.5	1,035.4	3.48
2002	317.9	1,297.0	4.08
2003	350.1	1,694.6	4.84

The main reason for the increase in the number of generic prescriptions is that several major drugs, such as simvastatin, have recently come out of patent. The Government has reduced the price paid for some of these drugs from 1 December 2003.

Mental Health

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner referrals to mental health specialists there were in each of the last 10 years. [181063]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of general practitioner written referral requests for a first out-patient appointment with consultant medical specialists in psychiatry in England in each of the last 10 years is shown in the table.

Information about referrals from general practitioners to other mental health specialists is not collected centrally.

Number of GP written referral requests for first out-patient appointment, mental health specialties, England

Provider based

	Quarter	*Mental handicap*	*Mental illness*	*Child and adolescent psychiatry*	*Forensic psychiatry*	*Psychotherapy*	*Old age psychiatry*
1994–05	1	668	27,801	6,641	35	792	2,784
1994–05	2	462	32,756	7,205	133	793	3,642
1994–05	3	462	34,909	9,142	93	1,017	3,658
1994–05	4	800	37,788	9,406	111	951	4,319
1995–06	1	780	38,367	9,989	171	1,138	4,349
1995–06	2	725	38,795	8,593	42	1,061	5,036
1995–06	3	714	35,776	9,583	396	1,063	5,090
1995–06	4	660	41,654	11,070	67	1,165	5,671
1996–07	1	725	41,349	9,439	60	1,081	5,622
1996–07	2	622	38,864	9,086	60	1,171	5,662
1996–07	3	765	41,539	11,323	62	1,051	5,252
1996–07	4	668	42,456	10,773	97	1,201	5,865
1997–08	1	849	43,730	10,390	135	1,184	6,332
1997–08	2	864	41,691	9,195	95	1,104	6,222
1997–08	3	903	41,352	10,743	92	1,159	6,203
1997–08	4	887	42,517	11,506	83	1,314	6,763
1998–09	1	981	39,195	9,262	166	1,568	6,628
1998–09	2	1,130	39,419	8,153	81	1,221	7,027
1998–09	3	929	39,954	9,449	71	1,228	6,868
1998–09	4	1,348	41,749	10,492	91	1,332	7,799
1999–2000	1	978	38,872	9,786	75	1,333	6,900
1999–2000	2	972	38,418	7,839	89	1,168	8,153
1999–2000	3	938	37,479	8,913	76	1,282	7,323
1999–2000	4	940	40,529	9,725	79	1,414	8,060
2000–01	1	944	39,844	8,374	70	1,209	8,543
2000–01	2	1,020	38,475	7,708	71	1,271	8,684
2000–01	3	939	38,118	9,154	56	1,184	9,150
2000–01	4	1,015	40,256	8,995	55	1,179	10,863

Number of GP written referral requests for first out-patient appointment, mental health specialties, England

Provider based

	Quarter	*Mental handicap*	*Mental illness*	*Child and adolescent psychiatry*	*Forensic psychiatry*	*Psychotherapy*	*Old age psychiatry*
2001–02	1	2,196	38,423	7,583	66	1,022	9,851
2001–02	2	1,068	35,536	6,538	227	1,171	9,853
2001–02	3	1,043	37,359	8,308	78	1,307	9,837
2001–02	4	972	36,894	9,077	69	1,332	10,582
2002–03	1	986	34,537	6,724	61	1,118	10,393
2002–03	2	734	35,389	6,411	88	1,348	10,148
2002–03	3	1,042	35,089	6,602	54	1,058	10,640
2002–03	4	757	34,792	6,609	26	1,049	11,405
2003–04	1	715	32,696	5,682	41	969	11,681
2003–04	2	760	32,880	5,226	56	747	11,963
2003–04	3	800	32,460	5,655	44	794	12,600
2003–04	4	1,312	32,250	5,749	47	742	13,390

Source:
Department of Health form QM08

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are diagnosed with severe mental illness; how many are in contact with *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary mental health services; and how many are not in contact with any mental health service. [181340]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available in the requested format.

All people of working age who are in contact with specialist mental health services have their treatment and care managed under the care programme approach. Information about service users under the care programme approach is collected at trust level.

The Department also collects hospital episodes statistics data (HES) containing diagnostic information about in-patients in national health service hospitals who have finished their hospital episodes under the care of a consultant specialist and have been discharged, transferred to another hospital or a consultant specialist or died. HES data is available at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/HospitalEpisodeStatistics/fs/en

The Office for National Statistics has also published "Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults Living in Private Households, 2000", which describes the prevalence of a range of mental disorders in the general household population. It also describes how people with particular disorders differ from those without any disorder on a range of factors: their background and personal characteristics, including employment and accommodation, physical health, current treatment and service use.

Better or Worse: a longitudinal study of the mental health of adults living in private households in Great Britain, an 18 month follow up of people interviewed for the 2000 survey, has been published in 2003. It showed patterns of treatment and care for those with common mental disorders across all sectors of the service. Copies of these publications are available in the Library.

NHS Dental Workforce Review

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS dental workforce review will be published; and what the reasons are for the delay in publication. [178259]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We intend to publish the dental workforce review shortly. The publication has been delayed so workforce reforms can be seen as part of the overall package of dental reform currently underway and the longer-term strategy to train a dental workforce appropriate to people's oral health needs.

NHS Direct

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls have been made to NHS Direct in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [180429]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct call data is collected nationally from each of the 22 NHS Direct sites. As the NHS Direct North West Coast site covers Lancashire, Merseyside and Cumbria, it is not possible to measure the number of calls made to NHS Direct in Lancashire.

The table shows the total number of calls made to the NHS Direct North West Coast site, the two sites located in the North West and nationally.

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Lancashire (North West Coast)	327,418	340,091	375,237
The North West (North West Coast and Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Wirral)	798,016	783,782	858,671
England	5,213,062	6,318,844	6,427,321

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS Direct call centres operate in *(a)* Lancashire, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England; and where they are based. [180430]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are four NHS Direct call centres in Lancashire; based at Preston, Chorley, Blackburn and Blackpool. There are a further seven call centres located elsewhere in the North West; based at Bolton (two), Manchester, Southport, St. Helens, Chester and Nantwich.

There are a further 35 call centres located elsewhere in England. The table shows where they are based.

NHS Direct site	*Call centres*	*Geographical coverage*
Anglia	Cambridge, Ipswich, Norwich	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire	Bristol	Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	Bedford	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
Birmingham, Black Country and Solihull	Dudley, Tipton, Selly Oak (two), Walsall	West Midlands
East Midlands	Nottingham	Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
Essex	Chelmsford	Essex, London borough of Barking and Havering
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Southampton	Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Kent, Surrey and Sussex	Caterham, Chatham	Surrey, Kent and Sussex
Midland Shires	Stafford	Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire and Worcester
North and Central London	London	Barnet, Barking and Havering Enfield and Haringey Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster
North East	Newcastle	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear
North East London	Ilford	East London and City Redbridge and Waltham Forest
South East London	Dulwich	Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham
South West London	Croydon	Croydon, Kingston and Richmond Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth
South Yorkshire and Number	Sheffield, Doncaster	South Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire
Tees, East and North Yorkshire	York (two), Hull, Middlesbrough	East Riding, Cleveland and North Yorkshire
Thames Valley and Northamptonshire	Milton Keynes	Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire
West Country	Exeter, Truro, Plymouth, Taunton, Ferndown	Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset
West London	Southall	Hillingdon, Brent and Harrow Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow
West Yorkshire	Wakefield	Calderdale and Kirklees, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and North Yorkshire

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for calls to NHS Direct to be answered were in each of the last three years. [181068]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the average waiting time for calls to NHS Direct to be answered is not collected centrally.

NHS Funding

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was allocated to *(a)* mental health services and *(b)* the NHS as a whole in England in each of the last 10 years. [R] [181990]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not possible to estimate the level of funding for mental health services as part of the total national health service expenditure.

The NHS Plan announced extra annual investment of over £300 million by 2003–04 to fast-forward the national service framework for mental health.

Information about the total NHS expenditure since 1995–96 is shown in the table.

For the latest round of allocations for 2003–04 to 2005–06, none of the growth money has been identified for specific purposes as under "Shifting the Balance of Power".

It is for primary care trusts, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

NHS total expenditure, England, 1995–96 to 2004–05

		Net NHS expenditure (£ billion)
Cash[1]		
1995–96	Outturn	32.0
1996–97	Outturn	33.0
1997–98	Outturn	34.7
1998–99	Outturn	36.6
1999–2000	Outturn	39.9
RB Stage 1[2]		
1999–2000	Outturn	40.2
2000–01	Outturn	43.9
2001–02	Outturn	49.0
2002–03	Outturn	54.0
RB Stage 2[3]		
2002–03	Outturn	55.7
2003–04	Estimated outturn	63.7
2004–05	Plan	69.2

[1] Expenditure pre 1999–2000 is on a cash basis.
[2] Expenditure figures from 1999–2000 to 2002–03 are on a Stage 1 resource budgeting basis.
[3] Planned expenditure figures from 2002–03 to 2004–05 are on a Stage 2 resource budgeting basis.
Note:
Figures are not directly comparable across the whole period.

Overseas Dentists

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much spending has been allocated to the recruitment of overseas dentists for *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2005–06; and if he will make a statement on discussions between his Department and the Treasury regarding this spending. [178411]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Resources agreed within the overall SR2002 settlement have been allocated to the recruitment of overseas dentists in 2004–05 and 2005–06 to improve access to national health service dentistry.

Worcestershire NHS Acute Trust

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancelled operations there were in each of the last seven years in the Worcestershire NHS Acute Trust area; how many times the day unit has been closed in each of the last seven years; and how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* managers, *(d)* administrators and *(e)* midwives were employed by the trust in each of the last seven years. [181433]

Dr. Ladyman: Worcestershire Acute Hospitals National Health Service Trust was formed in April 2000 by the merging of Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust, Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust and Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust.

Collection of cancelled operations data at individual NHS trust level began in 2001–02 in preparation for the implementation of the NHS Plan cancelled operations guarantee. Data for the years prior to 2001–02 are not available at NHS trust level.

Table 1 shows the number of operations cancelled by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, for non-clinical reasons for the past three years.

Table 1

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*[1]
Last minute cancellations	459	856	781
On the day of surgery cancellations	70	497	360

[1] The full year's data for 2003–04 are not available yet. The figures given are the totals up to the end of quarter 3.

West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority reports that Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has never closed the day case units at either Worcestershire Royal Hospital or the Alexandra Hospital.

Table 2 shows the total numbers of doctors, nurses, midwives, senior managers, managers, and clerical and administrative staff at the trust and its predecessor organisations.

Table 2

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Total doctors[1]:	385	391	376	365	379	401	417
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	105	106	99	—	—	—	—
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	167	171	165	—	—	—	—
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	113	114	112	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	365	379	401	417
Total qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff:	1,736	1,698	1,755	1,458	1,662	2,532	2,812
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	583	564	588	—	—	—	—
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	739	693	704	—	—	—	—
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	414	441	463	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire Acute hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	1,458	1,560	1,699	1,875
Of which:							
Registered midwives:	260	288	287	257	260	246	270
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	32	31	29	—	—	—	—
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	140	172	156	—	—	—	—
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	88	85	102	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	257	260	246	270
Total senior managers:	23	24	24	16	19	20	48
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	7	7	8	—	—	—	—
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	11	13	13	—	—	—	—
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	5	4	3	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	16	19	9	33
Total managers:	46	48	43	40	39	72	81
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	15	16	19	—	—	—	—
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	14	14	11	—	—	—	—
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	17	18	13	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	40	37	46	46
Total clerical and administrative:	842	866	841	749	887	1,202	1,182
Kidderminster Healthcare NHS Trust	279	285	254	—	—	—	—
Worcester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	335	347	350	—	—	—	—
Alexandra Healthcare NHS Trust	228	234	237	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	749	880	869	823

[1] Excludes hospital medical hospital practitioners and hospital medical clinical assistants, most of whom are general practitioners working part time in hospitals.

Note:

Figures are headcount at 30 September each year.

Source:

Department of Health non-medical workforce census.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Visas

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average response time is for cases left by hon. Members and their staff with the visa correspondence section of UK Visas. [180569]

Mr. Mullin: Under Government Service Delivery targets, UKvisas aims to reply to letters from hon. Members within 15 working days. For the calendar year of 2003 the average response time was 14.84 working days. So far in 2004 (week ending 25 June) the average response time was 16.42 working days (not including those that have yet to be sent a reply). These figures take into account the letters drafted for Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers.

Correspondence

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the name of the constituent of the honourable Member for East Antrim, notified in previous correspondence, who received unsolicited correspondence in respect of Iraq in March 2003 *(a)* will be removed from data held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* will not be disclosed to any other UK Government department. [152095]

Mr. Rammell: In view of the special circumstances that have been brought to our attention, we will destroy the letter we hold which purported to be from the constituent. There has never been any intention to transfer the name of the constituent to any other UK Government Department, but in any event such a transfer would only occur when permitted by the Data Protection Act 1998.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to take up the issue of troop levels for peace-keeping purposes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [181479]

Mr. Mullin: UN Security Council Resolution 1493 of July 2003 increased the troop ceiling for MONUC, the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 8,400 to 10,800. The level presently stands at 10,754. We are working with MONUC and within the Security Council to ensure that the mandate renewal due in July authorises the necessary adjustments to maintain and improve MONUC's effectiveness in the light of recent events.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have left employment in his Department because of *(a)* anxiety, *(b)* stress, *(c)* depression and *(d)* other mental health reasons in each year since 1997. [175679]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Mr. Marsden) on 14 May 2003, *Official Report*, column 293W.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total amount paid by his Department to employment agencies for the supply of temporary staff was in financial year 2003–04. [178913]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: During the financial year 2003–04, the accounts of which have yet to be finalised, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid a total of £1,630,613 to employment agencies for the supply of agency staff. This figure includes both remuneration to the staff concerned and fees to the agencies.

Departmental Water Consumption

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has joined the Watermark project. [181240]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office joined the Watermark project in 2001.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the non-office sites within the departmental estate which have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings. [181242]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office estate is mainly office based. In the UK our non-office estate consists of a conference and events centre and the official residence of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Water use at these sites is monitored but neither has been identified as providing opportunities for substantial water savings. We also have a mixed-use site in Buckinghamshire, which includes stores, warehousing facilities and vehicle workshops. An environmental management system is currently being rolled out at this site and achieving water savings is one of its objectives. Overseas, our non-office sites are mainly for staff accommodation, none of them have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings.

EU Constitution

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list each of the areas of decision-making in which the United Kingdom will lose its power of veto if the EU constitution, as currently agreed, secures endorsement in the forthcoming referendum. [180436]

Mr. MacShane *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* In the provisional consolidated version of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (CIG 86/04) agreed by Heads of State and Government at the European Council on 18 June 2004, 15 Articles (or sub-paragraphs) will move from a unanimous voting mechanism to Qualified Majority Voting. These are: Articles I-36(3), I-53(4), III-21, III-26.1b, III-79(3a), III-134, III-171, III-174, III-176, III-177, III-181, III-264, III-269, III-289 and III-289a(2b). One of these Articles (III-21) has an emergency brake mechanism

which allows a Member State an effective veto. Article (III–171) has an emergency brake mechanism which can lead to enhanced co-operation, allowing a Member State not to participate in the action concerned.

In CIG 86–04, 24 new Articles (or sub-paragraphs) are introduced at QMV. These are: Articles I–21, I–27, I–46(4), I–59(2), III–6, III–11, III–68, III–83, III–90, III–155, III–157, III–161, III–172, III–173, III–181a, III–182, III–184, III–185, III–201*(b)*, III–212, III–222, III–223(3), III–231 and III–262. One of these Articles (III–172) has an emergency brake mechanism which can lead to enhanced co-operation, allowing a Member State not to participate in the action concerned.

Under the new Treaty, the UK will retain its existing 'Protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland on policies in respect of border controls, asylum and immigration, and on judicial cooperation in civil matters' and therefore retains the right to take part in such measures on a case by case basis. Articles III–166, 167, and 168, covered by this Protocol, now provide for decisions by QMV under the new Treaty, but the Treaty of Amsterdam provided anyway for a potential move to QMV from 1 May 2004. Of the Articles mentioned above, the Protocol also covers Articles III–161 (under certain circumstances), and III–176(2a).

EU Foreign Minister

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the *(a)* powers and *(b)* duties that will be given to the proposed EU Foreign Minister. [180352]

Mr. MacShane *[holding answer 29 June 2004]*: Once the Constitutional Treaty is ratified and in force, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs would be responsible for the implementation of the policy decisions in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) adopted unanimously by the European Council and the Council of Ministers, and together with the Council he or she would also be responsible for ensuring the principles laid down in the Treaty on CFSP are complied with.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs would also be able to make proposals to the European Council and Foreign Affairs Council for development of EU foreign policy. Once these are decided by Member States, on the basis of unanimity, he or she would act as the Council's servant to implement them. He or she may also propose that a Special Representative is appointed by the Council. The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs would also take on the role currently carried out by the Presidency in conducting political dialogue with third parties and representing the Union at international organisations and conferences including representing an agreed EU position in the United Nations at the request of Member States who are members of the Security Council. He or she, along with the Commission, would also be charged with establishing relations with other international organisations.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs would have the following duties: he/she would conduct the Union's common foreign and security policy (Article I–27(2)); be a Vice-President of the Commission (Article I–27(4)); chair the Foreign Affairs Council; head the External Action Service and be responsible for Union delegations overseas. He or she would also be responsible for: the external relations aspects of Commission business: ensuring the consistency of the Union's external action and consulting the European Parliament on the development of common foreign and security policy in line with the consultation procedure allowed for in the Treaty.

European Council

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1080, on the European Council, what the evidential basis is for his statement that EU membership provides an extra 1.8 per cent. of GDP every year for Britain; whether the 3.5 million jobs cited represent the number of jobs dependent on trade with EU member states; how many of this number may be ascribed to *(a)* growth in the United Kingdom economy and *(b)* removal of trade barriers consequent on single market membership; and if he will make a statement. [180798]

Mr. MacShane: Various means are used to measure trading and economic ties between nation states. While different measures of Single Market benefits produce slightly different results, all underline the importance of membership of the EU for British jobs and prosperity.

In 2002, the European Commission estimated that EU GDP had increased by 1.8 per cent. thanks to the Internal Market. European households were estimated to be £3,800 richer (source: European Commission (2002) "Internal Market—Ten Years without Frontiers"). These are conservative estimates, which do not take account of the full impact of on-going liberalisation in the service sectors.

Estimates for the numbers of jobs in the UK linked, directly and indirectly, to the export of goods and services to the European Union, range upwards of 3 million. The 3 million figure is calculated on the basis that the share of total UK employment associated with UK exports to the EU is equal to the share of total UK value added (GVA) generated by UK exports to the EU. Academics have estimated that the number of jobs is as high as 3.5 million, once secondary, eg consumption, effects have been included.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Mr. Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1329W, on the meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 June, what discussion there was at the meeting about the draft joint action relating to Galileo; and what decisions were made about it. [180973]

Mr. MacShane: The joint action "On aspects of the operation of the European Satellite radionavigation system affecting the security of the European Union" (Doc. 9569/04) was adopted at the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 10–11 June, rather than at the 14 June GAERC. The Transport Council was also considering a regulation and decision on other aspects of the Galileo programme, and

it was therefore appropriate to adopt the joint action at the same council. It was adopted as an 'A' point, i.e. without actual discussion at the council.

Guantanamo Bay

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he intends to take to ensure that British nationals held at Guantanamo Bay are subject to a fair trial or are released; and what timescale he has set. [179053]

Mr. Mullin *[holding answer 15 June 2004]:* Discussions between the British and US Governments on the situation of the four British detainees at Guantanamo Bay are continuing. The Government will continue to seek to resolve their position. No timescale has been set for this.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UK-based private security contractors will enjoy immunity from prosecution under local Iraqi law after 30 June. [178795]

Mr. Rammell *[holding answer 14 June 2004]:* CPA Order 17 governs the status of certain foreign private security contractors in Iraq after 28 June. These include private security contractors who are providing security services to Diplomatic Missions, the Multinational Force, International Consultants and other contractors defined in the Order, and their personnel. Such contractors will be immune from Iraqi legal process with respect to acts performed by them pursuant to the terms of a contract. Contractors must, however, respect Iraqi laws. Private security companies must comply with all CPA Orders and Memoranda. CPA Memorandum 17 obliges all such companies operating in Iraq to obtain a Business License from the Iraqi Ministry of Trade and an Operating License from the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior (MOI). The MOI will monitor the actions of such companies and can revoke their Operating License. The contracting state has the right to waive the immunity of such companies.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what use will be made of the media in Iraq to promote free and fair elections in Iraq; and whether special attention will be given to the participation of women in the election as *(a)* voters and *(b)* candidates. [181516]

Mr. Rammell: A Foreign and Commonwealth Office-sponsored team in Baghdad is providing significant support to media development in Iraq, including establishing the Iraqi National Communications and Media Commission (INCMC) and an independent Iraqi National Public Broadcasting Service (INPBS). The team is working with the UN Electoral Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI), INCMC, the INPBS, media organisations and political parties to develop a code of practice for fair and balanced coverage of the elections, including coverage of women candidates. The INPBS will be an independent and impartial platform for national debate and will ensure that the Iraqi public are fully informed about the issues affecting the elections, the political debate and the technicalities of voter registration and participation.

The Transitional Administrative Law agreed on 8 March states that the electoral law for Iraq shall aim to achieve the goal of having women constitute no less than one-quarter of the members of the National Assembly. On the advice of Carina Perelli, Head of UNAMI, this has been encapsulated in the electoral law by stipulating that one in every three candidates in political party lists must be female. One of the objectives of DfID's political participation fund is to increase the opportunities for and participation of women in the political process.

Israel/Palestine

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he has met the Israeli Ambassador since September 2000. [180075]

Mr. Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, as well as other Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials, meet regularly with representatives from the Israeli Government. Meeting dates between the Foreign Secretary and the Israeli Ambassador dating back to 2000 could be provided only at disproportionate costs. However, the Israeli Ambassador has in the past 12 months been present on three occasions at meetings between the Foreign Secretary and the Israeli Prime Minister or other senior Israeli Ministers. My noble Friend the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, as Minister responsible for the Government's relations with the Middle East, also meets with the Israeli Ambassador on a regular basis; and most recently the new Israeli Ambassador, Zvi Heifetz on 24 June.

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 992W, on Israel, when he expects to announce what human rights issues the EU intends to raise at the EU/Israel Association Council to be held at the end of the year. [181297]

Mr. Rammell: As is normal practice, the EU does not make announcements in advance about specific issues it intends to raise at the EU-Israel Association Council.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many United Nations Resolutions of *(a)* the Security Council and *(b)* the General Assembly condemning the actions of the state of Israel the Government have voted against since 1974; and in what year each vote was. [180092]

Mr. Rammell: This information is available in the public domain. Texts of all United Nations Resolutions can be found on the UN website at www.un.org. Written requests for voting records dating back to 1974 can be submitted to the Archives Reference section in the United Nations in New York. The address is: Archives Reference Service, Room Q-328, United Nations New York, NY 10017.

Malaysia

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations Her Majesty's Government have received from Malaysian

citizens about the long-term effects of the spraying of chemical 2–4-5-T by British forces in the country; and if he will make a statement. [181165]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: According to our records, the high commission in Kuala Lumpur received a general inquiry in 1986 about the use of chemical 2–4-5-T in Malaysia.

In response, the high commission provided factual information from files available in the National Archives.

MKO (Iran/Iraq)

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answers of 28 June 2004, refs.180662 and 180663, if he will seek the advice of the Iraqi Interim Government on the steps they intend to take to deal with the 3,800 persons belonging to the proscribed terrorist organisation MKO who are housed in Camp Ashraf; and if he will propose that negotiations on the issue take place with the Government of Iran. [181818]

Mr. Rammell: Arrangements for Camp Ashraf are being considered by the Iraqi Interim Government in conjunction with the US authorities. We are in close touch with both. There are a number of governments with a legitimate interest in the plans for Camp Ashraf as these develop.

Palestinian Authority

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has met representatives of the Palestinian Authority since September 2000; and when those meetings were. [180086]

Mr. Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, as well as other Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials, meet regularly with representatives of the Palestinian Authority. Details of all such meeting dates since September 2000 are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

PFI Projects

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible create the minimum of environmental damage. [181228]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has only two PFI projects—the British Embassy in Berlin and our telecommunications network (FTN). As with other major contracts PFI initiatives do consider environmental criteria and meet relevant environmental regulations. For the FTN project we ensured that the equipment provided by our PFI partner was, and is, at the leading edge and most environmentally efficient in terms of electrical power usage. Replacement components for FTN are also considered in terms of energy efficiency to help reduce the impact on the environment. The construction of the Embassy in Berlin was delivered in compliance with German environmental regulations and standards which encompass environmental protection.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* sustainability and environmental impacts of its private finance initiative projects and *(b)* the capacity of the PFI process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects. [181229]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to sustainable development both in its foreign policy work and on its UK estate through the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. The PFI projects we have been involved in to date have met environmental regulatory requirements and we seek to go beyond these requirements where possible. We have not however carried out formal environmental impact assessments of our PFI projects, neither have we assessed the capacity of the PFI process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects although there is no reason that this could not be achieved. Our Public Private Partnership (PPP) to upgrade our global desktop computer network has focused on reduced energy consumption and environmentally responsible reuse and disposal of equipment throughout the specification of requirements and evaluation of tenders.

Quartet Membership Expansion

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with members of the Quartet to expand its membership to include *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Jordan and *(c)* Egypt. [181169]

Mr. Rammell: We have no plans to hold discussions on expanding Quartet membership to include Syria, Jordan and Egypt. But we have repeatedly made clear the value we attach to the role of regional Governments in the Middle East peace process. We have welcomed in particular the engagement of the Government of Egypt with Israel and the Palestinian Authority on Palestinian security issues.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide UK Government assistance by way of the provision of advisers to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis on constitutional matters. [181831]

Mr. Rammell: We have no plans at present to provide advisers to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis on constitutional matters.

Sustainable Development (Government Estate)

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of electricity used by buildings in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies came from renewable sources in each year from 1997. [181231]

Mr. Rammell: The proportion of electricity from renewable sources used by buildings in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, since 1997 is:

	Percentage
1997	0
1998	0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	9.3
2003	43.9
2004	[1]

[1] This year is expected to be in the region of the previous year.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department spent on (i) electricity and (ii) water and sewerage services in each year from 1997. [181232]

Mr. Rammell: The information requested about the cost of electricity and water and sewerage services to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1997–98 and 1998–99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information requested about the cost of electricity and water and sewerage services from 1999 onwards is as follows:

£

	Electricity	*Water/sewerage*
1999–2000	998,485	47,906
2000–01	1,007,212	50,366
2001–02	949,035	52,970
2002–03	813,854	56,914
2003–04	818,932	70,634

The information requested about the cost of electricity and water and sewerage services, to Agencies of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in 1997–98 and 1998–99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The cost of electricity and water and sewerage services from 1999 onwards is as follows:

£

	Electricity	*Water/sewerage*
1999–2000	19,574.85	1,394.10
2000–01	16,396.34	942.39
2001–02	18,302.97	2,324.06
2002–03	15,780.15	2,063.87
2003–04	17,858.39	1,623.81

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what have been identified as the most significant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of his Department's estate pursuant to the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181235]

Mr. Rammell: Our main sustainable development impacts relate to energy and water use, waste, procurement and travel.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what parts of his Department's estate will not be covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181236]

Mr. Rammell: Overseas posts are not covered by our commitments under the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. They are however encouraged to operate in ways that reflect our approach to improved environmental performance in the UK and several of them are undertaking local environmental initiatives. It would require disproportionate resources to apply the framework targets to the whole of the overseas estate at present. Approximately 38 per cent. of posts have four or less UK based staff and around 9 per cent. have only one.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the resignation of Mr. James Baker as special envoy to the Western Sahara. [181477]

Mr. Rammell: We have consistently supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his former personal envoy, James Baker III to find a solution to the dispute. We believe that it is important that the UN process continues, and fully support Alvaro de Soto, UN Special Representative to Western Sahara, in his efforts to take negotiations forward.

The United Kingdom continues to seek a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution to the Western Sahara dispute that provides the people of the Western Sahara with an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with the French authorities on French policy towards Morocco and the Western Sahara. [181478]

Mr. Rammell: We have had no recent discussions with the French authorities on their policy towards Morocco and the Western Sahara.

Our position has remained consistent. We seek a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution to the Western Sahara dispute that provides the people of the Western Sahara with an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination. We have consistently supported UN efforts to find a solution to the dispute.

TREASURY

"Near Cash" Definition

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition he uses of the term near cash. [181774]

Mr. Boateng: Departmental budgets are set on an accruals basis and therefore reflect the full economic costs of service delivery. The term near cash was introduced in the 2002 Spending Review (paragraph B14

of the 2002 Spending Review White Papers, Cm 5570) as a means of allowing readers to reconcile the announced plans to the previous budgeting regime.

Its definition has now evolved to simply describe departmental resource budgets less non-cash charges. The main non-cash charges currently included in budgets are depreciation and impairments, cost of capital, stock write-off, national audit fees, bad debts, profit and loss on disposal of fixed assets and movement in provisions. The term near cash is used rather than cash because it remains on an accruals basis and does not reflect the timing of actual cash payments.

Aviation Taxation

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of plans by the German Government *(a)* to levy a tax on aircraft fuel and *(b)* to extend the application of VAT to international flight tickets; and if he will make a statement. [182244]

John Healey: We are not aware of any published German Government plans to levy a tax on aircraft fuel. Although the German Government had planned to introduce VAT on certain air tickets, those plans were blocked by the Bundesrat last year.

Customs and Excise

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records Customs and Excise keeps of smokies legally imported into the country. [182213]

John Healey: Smokies, taken to be singed carcases of sheep and goats with the skin attached, are among meat products whose importation is prohibited under the Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2004. Equivalent legislation exists in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. HM Customs and Excise have no records of declared imports and their records of illegal meat seizures do not separately identify smokies.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of Her Majesty's Treasury in the latest year for which figures are available. [182115]

Ruth Kelly: For the year ended 31 March 2004, flights to and from Northern Ireland under the Treasury's travel management contract cost £18,961, of which £1,068 was for Ministers' travel and £17,893 was for officials. Other flights may have been booked outside the travel management contract but it would not be economic to assess those costs, and they are not likely to be significant.

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181864]

Ruth Kelly: The information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Review Targets

Mr. Flight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed by HM Treasury to work towards meeting the target under *(a)* Objective 3 and *(b)* Objective 10 in the 2004 departmental review; what the expected salary cost of employing those staff in 2004–05 is in each case; and what the total expected costs of working towards each target are for 2004–05. [180201]

Ruth Kelly: The number of staff working on each of the Treasury's objectives is given each year in the Department's resource accounts.

People of Retirement Age

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of people of retirement age who are in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time work. [182176]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger to Mr. Mark Simmonds, dated 5 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of people of retirement age that are in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time work. I am replying in his absence. (182176)

The attached table gives the most recently available estimates of the number of people of retirement age that are in full-time and part-time work. This refers to men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over.

Estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample statistical survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variability.

Number of people of retirement age[1] in employment, United Kingdom, three month period ending February 2004[2]

Thousand

Employment status	Number of people
Total in employment	975
Full-time	277
Part-time	697

[1] Men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over.
[2] Not seasonally adjusted.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey.

Teachers (Loans)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his policy that interest free loans provided to teachers in London by the Government should be treated as a taxable benefit. [182001]

Dawn Primarolo: Where interest-free loans are made to employees by their employer, or are arranged or guaranteed by the employer, they will usually be treated as a taxable benefit. The rules are the same for teachers as for other employees.

UK Population

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by how much the UK population has changed in each year since 1992. [182136]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Willetts, dated 5 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the annual change in UK population since 1992. I am replying in his absence. (182136)

A table showing population estimates for the UK and the change in population each year from 1992 to 2002 is shown below. This table incorporates interim revised population estimates; for England and Wales for mid-1992 to mid-2000, which were revised in light of research following the 2001 Census. These estimates are subject to future revision. Revised population estimates for mid-2001 and mid-2002 are due to be published together with the mid-2003 population estimates in late August 2004. Further information about revisions to population estimates can be found at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/revisions_popestimates.asp

Total population and annual change in population, UK, 1992–2002

Thousand, percentage

		Annual change in population	
	Mid-year population	*Number*	*Percentage*
1992	57,582.3	—	—
1993	57,711.0	128.7	0.25
1994	57,855.2	144.2	0.22
1995	58,005.1	149.9	0.25
1996	58,139.4	134.4	0.26
1997	58,282.8	143.4	0.23
1998	58,440.1	157.3	0.25
1999	58,635.2	195.1	0.27
2000	58,816.6	181.4	0.33
2001	59,050.8	234.3	0.31
2002	59,231.9	181.1	0.40

Notes:

1. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.
2. These estimates will be revised when the final historical series are published.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Unclaimed Assets

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate the Department has made of the value of National Savings accounts that are unclaimed. [181996]

Ruth Kelly: "Unclaimed monies" in the National Savings and Investments Product Accounts refer to monies where: the product has been redeemed by the Treasury; monthly interest or prizes are due; or to un-cashed Savings Stamps; and where the sums are transferable to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. The unaudited estimate of the total unclaimed monies as at 31 March 2004 is £33.6 million.

Watermark Project

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has joined the Watermark Project. [181855]

Mr. Boateng: The Treasury was among the first organisations to join the Watermark Project.

Youth Unemployment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the level of long-term youth unemployment in Coventry, South. [181880]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, to Mr. Jim Cunningham, dated 5 July 12004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment. I am replying in his absence. (181880)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. However, the LFS sample size is too small to give reliable estimates of unemployment in the Coventry South Constituency.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA) for local areas including parliamentary constituencies.

In May 2004 there were 18 people aged 18–24 resident in the Coventry South Constituency who had been claiming JSA for over 12 months.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 July 2004

HEALTH

Catheters

20. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the use of silver alloy urinary catheters on rates of infection. [182201]

Miss Melanie Johnson: We have commissioned Thames Valley University to update the national guidelines on infection control and a report is expected in August. This will include recommendations for preventing hospital acquired infections associated with the use of short-to-medium indwelling urethral catheters, including those coated with silver alloy.

Health Inequalities (Barnsley)

21. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce health inequalities in Barnsley. [182202]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I was fortunate to visit Barnsley in February to see for myself the good progress that is being made to reduce health inequalities—particularly around smoking cessation services, reducing teenage pregnancies and increasing access to Sure Start facilities.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for using their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. Over the current three-year allocation period Barnsley PCT will receive a total increase of £64 million, an increase of 31 per cent.

Cancer Treatment

22. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on waiting times for cancer treatment. [182203]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The NHS Cancer Plan sets out our strategy to reduce cancer waiting times. Our ultimate goal is that no one should wait longer than one month from urgent referral to the start of treatment except for clinical reasons or because of patient choice. We hope to achieve this goal by 2008.

South West Oxfordshire PCT

24. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* took and *(b)* requested be taken to change the decision of South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust in respect of the Ophthalmology Treatment Centre Chair in 2003. [182205]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ministers do not get involved in the decision-making of primary care trusts (PCTs). The Board of South West Oxfordshire PCT decided to reverse their earlier decision and support the Ophthalmology Treatment Centre following additional information provided by the PCT's Chief Executive.

Consultants' Contract

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants have signed the new consultants' contract. [182196]

Mr. Hutton: As at the beginning of June, 80 per cent. of consultants who had expressed an interest in working under the new the contract had received final job plan offers and 35 per cent. had accepted them. Consultants are moving on to the new contract at a rate of over 800 a week.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to extend patient choice in respect of orthopaedic surgery. [182200]

Mr. Hutton: Patients waiting more than six months for orthopaedic surgery are already being offered the choice of faster treatment in an alternative hospital.

By August this choice will be available to patients across the national health service in England.

By December 2005 patients will have the choice of four to five hospitals at the time their general practitioner refers them to hospital.

LIFT Programme

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress with the local investment finance trust (LIFT) programme. [182204]

Mr. Hutton: 42 local investment finance trust projects are currently going ahead. 13 of these had signed contracts by 1 July. All but one of the remaining 29 have appointed preferred bidders, and several of them are expected to reach financial close soon. We have recently invited the national health service to submit further applications for LIFT projects.

Agency Staff

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agency (non-NHS) *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses have been employed by the North West London NHS Trust in each year since 1997. [172824]

Mr. Hutton: This information is not collected centrally.

Agenda for Change

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action his Department will take to ensure that job profiles under the Agenda for Change for community *(a)* nurses and *(b)* allied health professionals will be adequately tested. [181194]

Mr. Hutton: We are currently testing the impact of the whole package of pay reform, including the application of job profiles, across 12 early implementer sites to ensure that the new system, which is underpinned by a job evaluation framework, provides a fair and

comparable basis of employment for all staff groups including allied health professions and community nurses.

The United Kingdom health departments, national health service unions and employer representatives are now reviewing the emerging evidence from the sites and the conclusions from this review are likely to be known in July.

Alder Hey

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether sucraid *(a)* has been and *(b)* is prescribed at the Alder Hey Children's Hospital. [181829]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Allergies

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services health authorities in Crosby provide for allergy sufferers. [181070]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not collected centrally. It is for local primary care trusts to decide how to use their funding allocation to meet the needs of their local populations.

Blood Transfusion

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conclusions have been reached on the efficacy of leucodepletion in preventing vCJD infections through blood transfusions. [163477]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Expert advice is that, if variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) is transmissible through blood, there is a possibility that white blood cells may carry the greatest risk of transmitting vCJD. As a precautionary measure, leucodepletion of all blood components was implemented in October 1999. If there is any infectivity in the blood of vCJD patients, even without leucodepletion, it is too low to measure by the methods currently available.

Brain Tumours

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken into brain tumours in the last five years, with particular reference to childhood brain tumours. [181364]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* The Department is providing funding for a specialised research network on paediatric oncology. The network is led by the United Kingdom children's cancer study group (UKCCSG). The UKCCSG is currently running sixteen trials on brain and nervous system tumours in children. These trials are being run through the national cancer research network, which is funded by the Department. Details can be found at www.ncrn.org.uk. In addition, the Department funds the UK childhood cancer research group at the University of Oxford, which is responsible for the national registry of childhood tumours including brain tumours.

The Department is also directly funding various research projects that are relevant to brain tumours including:

a study at the University of Birmingham's institute of child health into the relationship between molecular genetic abnormalities and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy biochemical profiles in childhood brain tumours;

research on the risk of brain tumours in relation to the use of mobile phones.

The national health service research and development programme on new and emerging applications of technology has funded a project on "Robotic Instrumentation Applied to Novel Therapy for Brain Disorders" and is currently funding another project entitled "Diffusion tensor imaging: a potential tool for improved definition of brain tumour margins and targeted therapy".

The majority of funds for research and development in the NHS are allocated to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects, including several relevant to childhood brain tumours, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase and improve the training available to *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* junior doctors, *(d)* therapists and *(e)* opticians regarding the symptoms of different forms of brain tumours. [181320]

Mr. Hutton: It is not practicable or desirable for the Government to prescribe exactly the content of training that any individual doctor, nurse, therapist or optician will receive. These are matters for the relevant independent regulators, competent authorities or professional bodies. Additionally it is the duty of all health professionals to keep up to date in the sphere of their own practice.

The Department issued "Referral guidelines for suspected cancer" in 2000 to help general practitioners to identify those patients who are most likely to have cancer and who therefore require urgent assessment by a specialist. These guidelines include a section on brain tumours. The guidelines are currently being updated by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and are due to be published next year.

Breast Cancer

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned into male breast cancer in the last 10 years. [181314]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has not directly commissioned research specifically related to the causes or treatment of male breast cancer.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research, including cancer, is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects, including some concerned with male breast cancer, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Children's Continence Services

Mrs. Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the provision of children's continence services; [182065]

(2) what plans he has to provide further directions to primary care trusts on providing integrated continence services for children. [182066]

Dr. Ladyman: The publication of the Royal College of Nursing/Continence Foundation document, "Is policy translated into action", provides a helpful overview of where and how services have improved, and also the scope for further improvement.

We will shortly introduce the children's national service framework, which will outline what support should be available to children and their parents in managing a range of conditions. In doing so, it will highlight evidence-based clinical guidelines, such as "Good Practice in Continence Services", which identifies the need to provide integrated continence services for children.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued to primary care trusts about the services offered at community hospitals. [182520]

Mr. Hutton: "The New NHS", published in 1997, set out a vision for the national health service and for primary care trusts (PCTs) as a key driver to improve health and make the NHS modern and dependable.

This was followed by two key guidance documents: "Primary Care Trusts: Establishing Better Services" and "Primary Care Trusts: Establishment, the Preparatory Period and Their Function". Since then, a number of guidance documents have been issued on PCT establishment, functions, membership, governance, commissioning, finance and services. These documents do not specifically give guidance on the services offered at community hospitals.

PCTs are responsible for assessing the needs of their population and securing services to meet those needs. PCTs are free to commission care from wherever they can obtain the best services for patients.

PCTs will need to have detailed first hand knowledge of hospital and community care services within their area and a clear view of the needs of their local community to plan and secure a full range of services for their population.

Correspondence

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will respond to the issues raised by the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead in his letters of 17 March 2004 and meeting with the Minister of State on 8 March 2004; and if he will make a statement. [179563]

Mr. Hutton: I replied to my hon. Friend on 18 April. I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library.

Cosmetic Surgery

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures have been taken to set up a single register of surgeons trained and qualified in cosmetic surgery; and if he will make a statement; [181203]

(2) what steps have been taken to ensure that all surgeons practicing cosmetic surgery have a cosmetic surgery qualification; and if he will make a statement. [181204]

Mr. Hutton: In order to practise surgery of any kind as an independent practitioner all doctors must be appropriately registered and qualified, in accordance with the National Health Service (Appointment of Consultants) Regulations 1996 when working in the NHS, and the Care Standards Act 2000 when working in the independent sector.

There is no recognised specialist qualification in cosmetic surgery. It forms part of the approved training in plastic surgery. The decision on whether to accept a new specialist qualification rests with the Secretary of State. In making that decision, he will consult and be advised by the specialist training authority of the medical royal colleges, which is responsible for approving the curriculum of any course of training leading to the award of a certificate of completion of specialist training, which is the normal route for entry to the specialist register.

European Union (Health Care)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government policy is regarding an enhanced role for the European Union in health care. [179119]

Mr. Hutton: The organisation and delivery of health services and medical care and definition of health policy is a matter for member states. This position was confirmed by the 25 European Union member states during the recent intergovernmental conference. However, there are situations where information sharing and increased cooperation between member states on healthcare is beneficial. Where this is appropriate we will support such measures.

Fall/Osteoporosis Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he asked the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to undertake a technology appraisal of fallers' clinics. [181438]

Dr. Ladyman: We considered that a technology appraisal in this area might identify benefits to patients and reduce pressures on the national health service. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence is also developing a clinical guideline in this area.

Genetically Modified Crops

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 596W, on GM crops, what *(a)* notice and *(b)* formal communication the Food Standards Agency gave to his Department of its intention to support the approval of the application of

the use of Bt11 GM maize in food at the EC Standing Committee for the food chain and animal health meeting on 8 December 2003. [179971]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The United Kingdom policy supporting the approval of Bt11 genetically modified maize was agreed across Government. Government Departments were given good time to contribute their views before the meeting of the Standing Committee on 8 December.

Green Ministers

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department's Green Minister has undertaken in the last three months in that role. [165444]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department is a key player in supporting the Government's objective of building a fair, inclusive and economically thriving society through improving and protecting the health and social well being of the people of England. Sustainable development is an intrinsic part of this aim.

As the Department's Green Minister, I have a number of responsibilities which help underpin sustainable development goals. These include health inequalities, healthy eating, for example, five-a-day and physical activity, such as the activity co-ordination team. My ongoing portfolio of work in these and other areas actively contributes to the delivery of sustainable development. Further details of the Department's work in these areas can be found on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/fs/en.

The results of the Department's recent public health consultation, "Choosing Health", will also feed into a White Paper to be published later this year, which will make an important contribution to the sustainable development agenda.

Health Services (Derby, North)

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses there were in Derby, North in each of the last seven years. [181164]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not collected and validated on a constituency basis. However, information for the national health service organisations serving the Derby, North constituency is shown in the tables.

Doctors for specified organisations in the Derby North area

	All doctors[1]						
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Central Derby[1]	—	—	54	54	—	—	—
Greater Derby Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	—	—	—	—	85	[2]86	[3]91
Central Derby PCT[1]	—	—	—	—	63	[4]76	[5]82
Derby City General Hospital[6]	147	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary[6]	219	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust[6]	—	379	387	386	420	443	477

[1] PCT figures are general medical practitioners (excluding retainers).
[2] Includes one hospital public health medicine and community services (HCS) doctor.
[3] Includes three hospital and community health (HCH) doctors.
[4] Includes 13 HCH doctors.
[5] Includes 16 HCH doctors.
[6] Trust figures are hospital and community health services doctors.

Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff and practice nurses employed by unrestricted principals and equivalents (UPEs)[1] in the Derby North area.

	Nurses						
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Central Derby PCT[2]	—	—	37	41	—	—	—
Greater Derby PCT[2]	—	—	—	—	225	252	266
Central Derby PCT[2]	—	—	—	—	147	226	222
Derby City General Hospital[3]	769	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary[3]	724	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust[3]	—	1,470	1,503	1,542	1,633	1,770	1,887

[1] UPEs include general medical service unrestricted principals, personal medical service contracted general practitioners.
[2] Figures are qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff.
[3] Figures are qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff.

Hospital Discharges

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to and then discharged from hospital whose housing arrangements were not known prior to discharge in the last year for which figures are available. [181200]

Dr. Ladyman: The national health service has a responsibility to ensure that patients are discharged safely. Where the patient's housing arrangements are relevant to this decision, they should be taken into account during the planning of the patient's discharge. The Department does not hold information on the numbers of patients to whom this applies.

Matrons

Mr. Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many modern matrons there were in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* grade. [181040]

Mr. Hutton: Information is not available by region or grade. Latest figures indicate that, as at December 2003, there were 3,200 modern matrons employed in the national health service.

Mr. Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital functions are directly accountable to modern matrons. [181946]

Mr. Hutton: Hospital functions directly accountable to modern matrons vary within organisations according to local management arrangements. However, the principles underpinning the role hold across all trusts. Their purpose is to lead clinical care in areas such as infection control and patient nutrition, driving up standards in all departments. Modern matrons have the authority to ensure high standards are set and maintained, and act as a visible presence for patients and relatives.

Medical Trainees (Electives)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost in England of sending medical trainees on electives was in 2003–04; and if he will make a statement. [180274]

Mr. Hutton: There is no cost to the national health service where postgraduate medical trainees decide to go abroad for part of their training. A centrally held budget, the multi-professional education and training levy, pays the salary replacement costs of postgraduate medical and dental trainees working in the NHS in England, but not while they are working abroad. Such trainees will usually seek financial assistance from charitable trusts or other organisations or may be in salaried employment in a hospital or research institution abroad.

Medication Reviews

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the national service framework targets for medication reviews for the over 75s do not form part of the Quality and Outcomes Framework in the new general practitioner contract. [182637]

Dr. Ladyman: The purpose of the two indicators in the new Quality and Outcomes Framework is to incentivise medication reviews generally.

A medication review is recorded in the notes in the preceding 15 months for all patients being prescribed four or more repeat medicines.

A medication review is recorded in the notes in the preceding 15 months for all patients being prescribed repeat medicines.

The 15-month window is intended to ensure that annual reviews take place in line with expert advice on best practice, but to allow a little extra time in case the patient is unable to attend their first review appointment. This is an upper limit. General practitioners will make clinical decisions about the frequency of medication reviews according to the differing needs of each individual patient.

The national service framework (NSF) for older people required that by April 2002, everyone aged 75 or over should have their medicines reviewed once a year; every six months for those taking four or more medicines. The medicines partnership taskforce has undertaken a review of primary care trusts to determine the extent of medication reviews carried out as per the NSF requirement. Results will be available shortly.

Ministerial Meetings

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will agree to a meeting with representatives of Queen Mary's Hospital NHS Trust, Oxleas NHS Trust, Bexley Care Trust and the Strategic Health Authority. [179568]

Mr. Hutton: I will be meeting my hon. Friend on Wednesday 14 July.

National Sourcing Programme

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation has taken place on the NHS national sourcing programme. [180442]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* As part of the review of the Department's arm's length bodies the Department's commercial directorate was commissioned to review the national health service supply chain, which is delivered through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) and NHS Logistics Authority. The review has identified scope for considerable savings through strengthening the national procurement functions, accelerating the implementation of collaborative trust procurement and streamlining logistics and distribution throughout the NHS supply chain. The review was undertaken in consultation with management and staff and has led to the new supply chain excellence programme.

One element of this programme is the national contracts sourcing project, which will achieve cost savings for the NHS, by implementing a more rigorous sourcing process, increasing trust uptake and proactively managing strategic suppliers. Consultation on this is continuing with the NHS and with suppliers.

Nerve Conduction Tests (London)

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current waiting time is for nerve conduction tests to be carried out at *(a)* Charing Cross hospital and *(b)* other neurophysiology units in London; and if he will make a statement. [182313]

Mr. Hutton: Figures on waiting times for nerve conduction tests carried out at Charing Cross Hospital and other neurophysiology units in London is not collected centrally.

NHS Dentists

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Pendle are registered with an NHS dentist outside the area. [181984]

Miss Melanie Johnson: 11,000 adults and 4,000 children who were resident in the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Primary Care Trust area were registered with a general dental service dentist outside the area on 4 April 2004.

Notes:

1. Registrations lapse if patients do not return to their dentists within 15 months. Registration rates will exclude patients who haven't been to their general dental service (GDS) dentist within the past 15 months and patients who receive dental treatment from other national health service dental services.

2. NHS dental services are also provided by the community dental service, personal dental service, salaried service of the GDS and hospital dental services. These services do not require the patient to be registered with a dentist before treatment.

Source:

Dental Practice Board.

NHS Land

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1603W, on NHS land, which properties were identified as being surplus to requirements in the last independent valuation of all national health service property assets; and how many of those have since been sold. [181404]

Mr. Hutton: The information obtained from the District Valuation Office Agency's revaluation of the national health service estate is used for statutory accounting purposes. It does not aim to identify surplus estate.

The identification and disposal of surplus properties is a matter for NHS trusts, acting in accordance with departmental guidance set out in "Estatecode".

An agreement in principle has been reached to transfer surplus land in the ownership of Secretary of State for Health to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

NHS Work Force Definitions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what definition he uses of *(a)* consultant, *(b)* specialist and *(c)* surgeon in the context of the NHS workforce; [R] [180655]

(2) how many practitioners are employed in the NHS under the title consultant that are neither medically nor dentally qualified, broken down by profession; [180677]

(3) which of the figures he has relied on to describe workforce projections for NHS consultants include practitioners that are neither medically nor dentally qualified; [180678]

(4) where practitioners described as consultant but who are neither medically nor dentally qualified appear in *(a)* actual and *(b)* projected NHS workforce statistics. [180679]

Mr. Hutton: In actual and projected national health service workforce statistics, the Department uses the medical and dental workforce census definitions. The consultant count includes those staff who are:

doctors or dentists employed in the hospital, public health or community health service sector;

employees of a NHS organisation, including consultant clinical academics holding an honorary contract;

employed on a consultant payscale or equivalent.

To comply with the first item listed, an individual needs to hold a registration number either with the General Medical Council or General Dental Council. The figures therefore include no staff who are neither medically or dentally qualified.

Questions relating to specialists are generally answered by providing counts of consultants, on exactly the same basis as the above. Questions relating to surgeons are answered by identifying staff who meet the consultant definition as above and in addition are recorded as working in one of the surgical specialties.

Patient Referral (Health Professionals)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health professionals will not immediately be covered by the 18-week target from general practitioner referral to treatment, with reference to paragraph 2.7 of the NHS Improvement Plan. [181662]

Mr. Hutton: The Department is yet to agree its public service agreements targets with Her Majesty's Treasury. This is one of the issues to be addressed as part of this process.

PCTs (Elderly Patients)

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which 10 primary care trusts in England have the largest elderly populations compared with the national average; [181762]

(2) what percentage of the population in the area of *(a)* the Blackpool Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the Wyre Primary Care Trust are elderly. [181763]

Ruth Kelly: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mrs. Joan Humble, dated 6 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent questions about the elderly populations of primary care trusts in England. I am replying in his absence. (181762,181763)

Mid-year population estimates are not currently available for primary care organisation areas, although a number, including the primary care trusts of Blackpool and Wyre, are coterminous with local authority boundaries. The following table shows the percentage of people resident in Blackpool unitary authority area, Wyre local authority area and England who were of pensionable age in 2002, the latest year for which information is available.

Percentage of people of pensionable age, areas as shown, mid 2002

Number, percentage

		People of pensionable age[1]	
Area	*All people*	*Total*	*Percentage*
England	49,561,800	9,100,700	18.4
Blackpool	141,900	32,100	22.6
Wyre	106,800	27,400	25.7

[1] Pensionable age is 65 and over for males and 60 and over for females.

Source:

2002 Mid-year population estimates, Office for National Statistics

Although mid-year population estimates for primary care organisation areas are not available, population information is available for health areas from the 2001 Census. The following table shows the 10 primary care organisations in England which

had the highest percentage of people of pensionable age at the time of the 2001 Census. The figures have been extracted from Table CAS001 on the "Census 2001 Census Area Statistics (CAS) for health areas in England and Wales" DVD, which is available on request from Census Customer Services (census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk).

Figures for Blackpool unitary authority area, Wyre local authority area and England have also been included for comparison.

Percentage of people of pensionable age, areas as shown, 2001 Census

Number, percentage

Area	*All people*	*People of pensionable age*[1] *Total*	*Percentage*
England	49,138,831	9,025,373	18.4
Blackpool	142,283	32,139	22.6
Wyre	105,618	26,868	25.4
Bexhill and Rother	87,402	27,745	31.2
East Devon	118,200	36,601	30.6
South and East Dorset	146,872	44,772	30.5
Tendring	136,458	40,350	29.6
Eastbourne Downs	165,692	48,390	29.2
North Norfolk	98,382	28,439	28.9
Adur, Arun and Worthing	215,187	57,518	26.7
Western Sussex	207,384	54,849	26.4
Fylde	73,217	18,964	25.9
Torbay	129,706	33,347	25.7

[1] Pensionable age is 65 and over for males and 60 and over for females.

Source:

Table CAS001 Census 2001 Census Area Statistics (CAS) for health areas in England and Wales.

Podiatry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what operations are performed by non-medically qualified consultant podiatric surgeons in the NHS. [180670]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* podiatrists, *(b)* podiatric surgeons and *(c)* consultant podiatric surgeons are employed in the NHS. [180676]

Mr. Hutton: Specific information is not collected centrally on the number of podiatric surgeons or consultant podiatric surgeons employed in the national health service. As at September 2003, there were 3,807 qualified chiropodists and podiatrists employed in the NHS, an increase of 521 or 16 per cent. since 1997.

Public Health White Paper

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish the public health White Paper. [181877]

Miss Melanie Johnson: We plan to publish our White Paper on improving people's health in the autumn.

Radioactivity

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ascertain whether there is a general tendency for enhanced health risks to be found in populations living near areas of operations involving radioactive elements. [182251]

Miss Melanie Johnson: In 1983, the Black advisory group was commissioned by the Government to investigate reports of a high incidence of leukaemia occurring in young people living in the village of Seascale, three kilometres from the Sellafield nuclear site and the suggestion that there might be an association between the leukaemia incidence and the radioactive discharges from Sellafield. The advisory group confirmed that there was a higher incidence of leukaemia in young people resident in the area but also concluded that the estimated radiation dose from the Sellafield discharges and other sources, received by the local population, could not account for the observed leukaemia incidence on the basis of knowledge available at that time. The uncertainties in the available data led the advisory group to make recommendations for further research.. The committee on medical aspects of radiation in the environment (COMARE) was established in November 1985 in response to the final recommendation of the report of the independent advisory group chaired by Sir Douglas Black (Black, 1984). Its terms of reference are to:

> "assess and advise Government and the Devolved Authorities on the health effects of natural and man-made radiation in the environment and to assess the adequacy of the available data and the need for further research".

Since that time, COMARE has produced eight reports concerning possible health effects from exposure to environmental radiation.

School Meals

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the health implications of the nutritional content of school meals. [182189]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The food that children consume has significant health implications and we are taking it seriously. Work is under way to address this concern within schools including the Choosing Health? consultation that will inform a public health White Paper later this year.

Sexual Health

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is given to local authorities on the suitability of NHS safe sex information material for *(a)* schools, *(b)* youth clubs and *(c)* other venues frequented by teenagers; and if he will make a statement on the process by which this material was judged suitable for educational purposes; [176770]

(2) how many councils have received NHS safe sex information materials; how many have indicated that they are unsuitable; and what estimate he has made of the number of boroughs in which they are being used in schools and youth clubs; [176773]

(3) what procedures are in place to evaluate *(a)* the take up and *(b)* the effectiveness of NHS safe sex information material. [176774]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Lack of clear and accurate information for young people about sexual health is one of the key factors contributing to the high rates of unintended teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. The teenage pregnancy strategy produces materials for young people through the "RU Thinking"? information campaign, to enable them to make informed, responsible choices. These materials are tested with young people and parents and are available for local teenage pregnancy strategies to disseminate in relevant community settings for young people. The choice of the most appropriate venues to reach young people is for local discretion, and no information is held centrally on this.

In addition, the Department has funded the national "Sex Lottery campaign", which aims to raise awareness of sexually transmitted infections and promote safer sex among the 18 to 30 age group. Campaign materials are carefully targeted at this older audience and are not directly promoted for use in schools. Evaluation indicates that the campaign is effective in changing behaviour.

At local level it is the responsibility of primary care trusts to provide sexual health services, including sexual health promotion, to meet the needs of their local populations. The Department has published guidance on good practice in sexual health promotion, which includes guidance on working with young people, to support them in this role—Effective Sexual Health Promotion, June 2003, available at www.dh.gov.uk. Information is not held centrally on local safer sex materials produced at local level or how these are distributed and evaluated.

In respect of the suitability of materials used in schools, under the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) sex and relationships education (SRE) guidance, schools remain under a firm obligation to use materials that are in accordance with both the personal social and health education framework and the law. Teachers and schools, in consultation with parents, must use their professional judgment to ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials that are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned. The Government does not promote or endorse specific classroom materials.

Smokies

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Department keeps records of human health problems arising from the consumption of smokies; [182209]

(2) whether the Department has commissioned work from the Food Standards Agency on the legal production of smokies; [182210]

(3) whether the Department keeps figures on the trade in smokies in the UK; [182211]

(4) whether his Department has commissioned studies on smokies production. [182212]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answers 5 July 2004]:* Production of smokies, which are singed carcases of sheep and goats, mainly sheep, with skin attached, is not permitted by European Union food safety legislation, which requires all sheep and goat carcases to be completely flayed as part of the dressing process. Trade in such products is therefore illegal.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA), which is responsible for food safety legislation in the United Kingdom, is aware of the existence of an illegal trade in smokies, particularly to certain ethnic communities, but does not hold data on the size of the trade.

The FSA collects information about foodborne disease, but information about health problems arising from the consumption of smokies is not collected separately. No outbreaks associated with the consumption of smokies have been reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) communicable disease surveillance centre. In addition to this, case control studies conducted by the HPA and the former Public Health Laboratory Service have not identified smokies as a risk factor for sporadic infection.

Because of the potential public health risks posed by illegally produced smokies, the FSA has commissioned research to determine whether smokies can be produced safely. The research aims to investigate whether a hygienic procedure and acceptable meat inspection is possible when producing sheep carcases with the "skin-on". If such procedures could be identified, the FSA may consider seeking changes to European Union legislation to permit such production. Results of the research should be available by November 2005.

Smoking

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the smoking rate for manual groups in England was in each year since 1990. [180314]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is shown in the table.

Prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults aged 16 and over, by socio-economic group of household reference person, England, 1990 to 2002

Percentage

	Non-manual	*Manual*	*Total*
Unweighted			
1990	24	35	29
1992	23	33	28
1994	21	32	26
1996	22	34	28
1998	21	32	27
Weighted			
1998	22	33	28
2000	23	31	27
2001	21	32	27
2002	20	31	26

Notes:

1. In 2001, the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) was introduced for all official statistics and surveys. It replaces Social Class based on occupation and Socio-Economic Group (SEG). There is no longer a manual/non-manual split in the NS-SEC, however, the old socio-economic groupings have been recreated in order to continue monitoring the Cancer Plan target.
2. In 2000, the decision was made to weight the data to compensate for under representation of people in some groups. The table shows weighted and unweighted data for 1998 to give an

indication of the effect of weighting. Caution should be exercised when comparing weighted data for 2000 onwards with unweighted data for previous years.

Source:

Office for National Statistics, "Living in Britain: Results from the General Household Survey", 1990 to 2002.

Health Professionals Training Costs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 159W, on health professionals training costs, whether the costs cover the whole training course. [181209]

Mr. Hutton: The figures in the previous answer cover tuition costs only for the whole length of the course. In addition, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy students could be entitled to a means tested bursary, which in 2003–04 averaged £3,696 per annum. The cost of training post-registration health visiting and district nursing students excludes their pre-registration training costs of £19,370, excluding bursaries.

Treatment Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of treating *(a)* illnesses attributable to smoking, *(b)* illnesses attributable to obesity, *(c)* diabetes and *(d)* diabetes in children was in the last year for which figures are available. [179956]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Smoking costs the national health service up to £1.7 billion a year in England.

The National Audit Office report "Tackling Obesity in England" estimated that the cost to the NHS of treating the consequences of obesity in 1998 was approximately £469.9 million per year.

Information is not collected centrally on how much is spent on the treatment of diabetes. However, using the results of a study undertaken in Glamorgan in the mid-1990s[1] it has been estimated that around 5 per cent. of total national health service resources are used for the care of people with diabetes.

[1] (NHS acute sector expenditure for diabetes: the present, future, and excess in-patient cost of care. Currie CJ, "et al". 1997. "Diabetic Medicine," 14: 686–692).

Waste Management

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* targets and *(b)* strategies there are in the NHS (i) to minimise waste and manage waste sustainably, (ii) to reduce energy use and (iii) to encourage sustainable procurement; and if he will make a statement. [181210]

Mr. Hutton: For the national health service in England, there is one target in respect of these areas, which is for the reduction of energy consumption by 15 per cent., or 0.15 million tonnes carbon between 2000 and 2010.

To assist the NHS work towards minimising waste and encouraging sustainable waste management and procurement, NHS Estates (NHSE) has published best practice advice, guidance and software tools. Additional guidance for procurement has been developed by NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA). NHSE has issued a new environmental strategy for the NHS in England to enable trusts to set local strategies and action plans in respect of waste, energy, procurement, transport and water. Further work is being developed to produce a total waste management strategy with PASA and also an energy/carbon strategy for use by trusts later this year.

Wind Turbines

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has collated on the health implications of infrasound emitted by wind turbines. [160640]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 11 March 2004]:* The Department has funded work on the effects of environmental noise on health, but this has not included noise produced by wind farms.

PRIME MINISTER

Iraq

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral answer of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 299, on US abuses of Iraqi detainees, when British intelligence officers first became aware of abuses against Iraqi detainees by American personnel; when they advised the UK Government of these abuses, when their concerns were made known to the US authorities and at what level; and what response the US authorities made. [182519]

The Prime Minister: As my letter to the Intelligence and Security Committee made clear, none of the UK intelligence personnel interviewing detainees witnessed any evidence of detainee abuse of the type that the United States authorities have acknowledged occurred in Iraq.

The Intelligence and Security Committee has made clear that they will be taking further evidence on these issues and the Government will cooperate fully with them.

ISC Annual Report

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister when he will respond to the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2003–04. [182697]

The Prime Minister: I am today laying before the House the Government's Response to the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report for 2003–04. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Lockerbie

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1065W, on Lockerbie, when he expects to inform the families of the outcome. [182633]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to my previous answer.

TREASURY

Aviation (VAT)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue that would be raised if VAT at 17.5 per cent. were imposed on all commercial flights within the UK. [182276]

John Healey: The lack of price data means it is not possible to estimate accurately the revenue from a 17.5 per cent. sales tax on the purchase of tickets for commercial flight departures, Airline tickets are already subject to Air Passenger Duty at rates ranging from £5 to £40 per flight, depending on the class of travel and the destination.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue that would be raised if aviation fuel for all commercial flights within the UK were taxed at the same rate as petrol for cars. [182277]

John Healey: Figures for aviation turbine fuel consumption on domestic flights are not collected. It is therefore not possible to estimate the potential revenue gain from charging duty at the petrol road fuel duty rate on aviation turbine fuel consumed on domestic flights.

In addition, the Government do not accept such direct comparisons as valid, nor do they have an objective of equalising the tax treatment across transport modes so do not regard any such figures as relevant to judgments on the taxation of aviation.

Child Benefit

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the Government plans to remove the limit on hours for education and unwaged training in child benefit; [182098]

(2) when the Government plans to remove the distinction between education and unwaged training in eligibility for *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* child benefit. [182102]

Dawn Primarolo: As my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his 2004 Budget report, the Government intend to introduce a package of short-term measures to improve choice, deliver minimum income standards and offer a more individualised, professional service to young people. As part of this package, we will introduce at the earliest opportunity a Bill to facilitate the removal of the distinction between education and unwaged training in child benefit.

Changes to the child tax credit rules will be made alongside any changes to child benefit.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter to him dated 11 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Fatima Qanyare. [182489]

Dawn Primarolo: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 30 June.

Diesel Fuel (Duty Levels)

Mr. Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to raise the duty levels on diesel fuel for leisure boats. [181820]

John Healey: The Chancellor considers all relevant environmental, economic and social factors in deciding taxation policy. He announces any changes to taxation policy in the context of his Budget Statement.

Duty Free Concessions

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional revenue would be raised, assuming no change in the level of sales, if duty free concessions for persons travelling abroad on alcohol, tobacco and VAT were abolished. [182274]

John Healey: No such estimate is available.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what international treaties prevent the ending of duty free concessions for persons travelling abroad on alcohol, tobacco and VAT. [182275]

John Healey: There is no international treaty that prevents the ending of duty free allowances for travellers.

Insurance Mediation

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment was made of the impact of the Insurance Mediation Directive Regulations on the UK property and construction sectors before their introduction; [182156]

(2) how many secondary insurance intermediaries the Financial Services Authority (FSA) estimates there are in the UK, broken down by sector; how many the FSA estimates will *(a)* apply for authorisation, *(b)* become appointed representatives and *(c)* cease activities when the new regulatory regime for general insurance is introduced in January 2005; and if he will make a statement; [182157]

(3) how many applications the Financial Services Authority has received to date for authorisation to undertake insurance mediations *(a)* in total and *(b)* from secondary intermediaries, broken down by sector; [182158]

(4) which organisations the Financial Services Authority sent copies of consultation paper CP174; which organisations responded; and with which organisations the FSA held meetings; [182159]

(5) which sector the secondary intermediary which participated in the work of the Financial Services Authority on consultation paper CP174 came. [182160]

Ruth Kelly: The regulations to bring the selling of insurance into the scope of FSA regulation implement the European Union's Insurance Mediation Directive. The Directive requires the UK to regulate everyone who sells general insurance. This includes those firms where the selling of insurance is an "incidental" part of the firm's business. The Government have no discretion to exclude insurance in particular sectors, such as the property and construction sector from regulation. The only exclusions the Directive permits are limited to

extended warranties costing less than €500 per annum and travel insurance sold as part of a package with a holiday.

The Government have consulted widely on the regulatory regime, publishing a public consultation document including draft regulations and a draft regulatory impact assessment in October 2002. Following analysis of the responses to the consultation, Parliament approved legislation on 24 June 2003. The activities to be regulated are: introducing, proposing or carrying out other work preparatory to the conclusion of contracts of insurance; assisting in the administration and performance of such contracts, in particular in the event of a claim; and concluding contracts of insurance. In drawing up its rules for insurance mediation, the FSA has carried out extensive public consultations and cost benefit analyses on its rules. Further information is available from the FSA's website, www.fsa.gov.uk.

In implementing the Directive, the Government have sought to work closely with interested parties to develop an approach which is proportionate and which meets our obligations under European law. In drawing up its rules, the FSA has carried out public consultations and cost benefit analyses. Both the FSA and the Government have been careful to take account of the impact on small businesses. For example the FSA sets fees according to the volume of business that a firm undertakes, with application fees being lowest for the smallest firms.

The Government have held detailed discussions with a range of organisations regarding implementation of the Directive. Bodies representing the property and construction sectors have been aware of the Directive for some time. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) had initial discussions with the FSA a year ago and recently approached the Treasury with more detailed concerns. My officials met with representatives from the RICS to discuss these concerns and we are carefully considering the issues raised.

For operational purposes, the FSA estimates 20,000 new firms will apply for direct authorisation as a result of the introduction of the new regulatory regimes for mortgages and general insurance. Secondary intermediaries in the general insurance market represent about 40 per cent. of the forecast population.

To date FSA has received 6,786 applications from firms applying to conduct insurance related activities, of which 2,693 are from secondary intermediaries. Of these around 80 per cent. are from the motor sector and the remainder from the retail and services sectors.

FSA consultation papers are publicly available on the FSA website and hard copies are available on request from the FSA. The FSA have ensured that all consultation publications on the regulation of mortgage firms and insurance intermediaries, including CP174, have been supported with an introductory 'newsletter'. Copies of the newsletters were mailed via relevant current voluntary regulators, trade associations and insurance product providers to approximately 28,500 intermediaries and potentially affected firms. The FSA also held several seminars, at no cost to attendees, around the UK which included an overview of our consultation and a questions and answer session.

With respect to CP174, there is a list of non-confidential respondents to the CP at Annex 1 to Policy Statement 174, published in September. This is available on the FSA website. When firms participate in surveys such as the one carried out for the CP174 Cost Benefit Analysis the FSA gives the firms a guarantee of confidentiality.

The diversity of interest and needs among the Mortgage and General Insurance population means that trade associations and other industry groups' role in developing the awareness of their members is critical, which is why the FSA have worked closely with such groups. The FSA has made contact with every group it has identified as affected by regulation. For more than a year, the FSA have been running an extensive communications strategy for firms incorporating press and media work, advertising, direct mail, a website, speaking programme, industry training, trade association liaison and production of a suite of guidance materials.

International Finance Facility

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the countries which *(a)* have indicated support for and *(b)* have agreed to participate in the International Finance Facility initiative since its inception. [182317]

John Healey: 37 countries have recently made statements of endorsement for the IFF, urging donors to implement the proposal. Among the G7, France has been a firm supporter of the IFF, recently hosting a Ministerial Forum on Financing for Development attended by over 55 countries where the IFF was a major topic for discussion. We are continuing to work with other potential donors to resolve any technical concerns regarding the proposal. As we move towards the UK Presidencies of the G8 and EU in 2005, we hope to build on the support we have already received to make significant progress on the proposal.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the means-tested benefits available through the Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182573]

Dawn Primarolo: The Inland Revenue administers the child and working tax credits, entitlement to which is related to claimants' annual income. Child tax credit is available to nine out 10 families with children, on family income of up to £58,000 a year. These tax credits were introduced in April 2003, replacing working families' and disabled person's tax credits and the children's tax credit.

National Care Standards Commission

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to widen the eligibility criteria for registration with the National Care Standards Commission to include agencies that do not provide personal care for the elderly but do provide domestic care and pay VAT. [181630]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently no plans to widen the eligibility criteria for registration with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) to include agencies that provide domestic care, but not personal care, for older people. CSCI took over the regulation of social care services from the National Care Standards Commission on 1 April 2004.

PFI Projects (Environmental Impact)

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible create the minimum of environmental damage. [181841]

Mr. Boateng: The Treasury has no PFI projects in planning or construction.

VAT (Children's Clothing)

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend the Value Added Tax regulations for children's clothing to enable clothing for larger children to be exempt from VAT; and if he will make a statement. [182279]

John Healey: Under the long-standing formal agreements with our European partners, we are not able to extend or add to the current list of zero rates. The EU law provides for zero-rating of "Articles designed as clothing or footwear for young children and not suitable for older persons".

The relief is limited to children under 14 and following a review which the Government undertook with the industry and others, the scope of the zero rate was simplified and modernised in Budget 2001 to reflect more accurately the size of the average 13-year-old child. Some children under 14 who are above average size will still not benefit from relief, but their measurements will be largely indistinguishable from those of many adults.

The current rules ensure that the retailer knows exactly which items are zero-rated and which are standard-rated, and can set their prices accordingly. This also ensures a consistent application of the relief, and prevents children's clothes being treated differently by different retailers.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a farm may contain animals suspected of bovine TB infection in an approved isolation unit before having them tested using a tuberculosis test. [180356]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Tuberculosis (England and Wales) Order 1984 (as amended) requires a person who has in his possession an animal suspected of being affected with bovine TB to notify the suspicion.

The Order also requires animals affected by bovine TB (such as reactors pending removal), and animals suspected of being affected (such as inconclusive reactors pending retest or suspected clinical cases pending veterinary examination), to be isolated from other bovine animals on the premises.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an individual farmer may carry out a private tuberculosis test on any of his cattle suspected of having contracted bovine TB. [180357]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Tuberculosis (England and Wales) Order 1984 (as amended) specifically prohibits the testing of bovine animals with tuberculin except with the consent of the appropriate Minister. The Divisional Veterinary Manager may give permission to a local veterinary inspector privately to carry out a TB test where such a test is not required for statutory TB controls. However, where animals are suspected of having TB (or where reactors or inconclusive reactors have already been disclosed) private tests will not be authorised, as such testing might compromise disease control measures carried out under the direction of the State Veterinary Service.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the circumstances in which an animal is obliged to have a tuberculosis skin test for bovine TB. [180358]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are four main reasons for testing cattle for bovine TB:

1. Routine testing of cattle herds for surveillance purposes. This is done at intervals ranging from one to four years depending on the incidence of TB in cattle herds in each parish.

2. Testing of all animals in a herd at 60-day intervals, following the disclosure of TB and in order to regain the officially TB free status. This is followed by testing at six and 18 months after the withdrawal of TB restrictions, in order to check that the herd has remained free from TB.

3. Ad hoc testing can be instigated at any time by the DVM in order to check the status of entire herds following, for instance, confirmation of TB in contiguous cattle herds, culture positive RTA badger carcases, suspected cases of TB found during routine meat inspection or where TB is traced back from cattle movements into a herd where TB has been confirmed.

4. Testing of individual animals (inconclusive reactors, imported cattle and forward traced animals from infected herds).

Cars (Environmental Impact)

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards *(a)* developing labelling of emissions on cars and *(b)* an energy efficiency scheme for cars similar to that on electrical goods. [181976]

Mr. Jamieson: It has been a legal requirement in the UK since 1977 for labels giving fuel economy information to be fixed to all new cars on display in showrooms. More recently, requirements for the labelling of passenger cars were introduced into UK law in the form of regulations implementing EU Directive 1999/94/EC. These regulations require a label to be displayed on all new car models in showrooms, listing their CO_2 emissions performance and fuel consumption. Manufacturers must also include these same figure in all printed adverts, brochures and manuals.

The European Commission is currently in the process of reviewing Directive 1000/94/EC. As part of this review, it has commissioned consultants to evaluate the effectiveness of the Directive's current provisions. This review may conclude that the Directive should be amended to require the labels to have an A-G style format, similar to that already used in labels on some electrical goods. The UK has made clear to the European Commission that it would favour such an approach.

In parallel, the UK Government has asked the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) to develop a proposal for a voluntary UK car labelling scheme, with an A-G style energy efficiency format. The Government hopes that the Partnership will reach agreement on the scope and format of such a label later this year. This would allow a new A-G style energy efficiency label for passenger cars to be introduced in the UK on a voluntary basis during 2005, as an interim measure in advance of any similar mandatory EU label.

Cormorants

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to change the protection afforded to cormorants; and if she will make a statement. [181811]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects all wild birds including the cormorant. This Act implements the EC Wild Birds Directive in Great Britain. There are no plans to review the protected status of the cormorant.

However, we have accepted for some time that cormorants can and do cause damage to certain fisheries. For this reason the Department issues individual licences under Section 16 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to allow cormorants to be killed or taken as an aid to scaring. It is our firm intention, and the legislation requires, that licences will not be issued to applicants who have not tried all reasonable non-lethal methods (such as refuges) to resolve problems. However, despite seeking alternative solutions, problems do persist in certain areas which is why we are actively considering measures that could help fishery owners and angling clubs deal with the increasing problem of predation by cormorants.

Deliberations are at an early stage but will include a basic review of the licensing system which may result in further limited and controlled killing of cormorants to aid scaring but without compromising the conservation status of the cormorant.

DecaBDE

Beverley Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of the European Risk Assessment for DecaBDE; whether there are restrictions applied to the future use of this product; and whether the voluntary initiatives relating to this product are supported by the Government. [181803]

Alun Michael: An environmental risk assessment of deca-BDE has been carried out under the Existing Substances Regulation (EC) 793/93. At the EU Competent Authorities' meeting in Dublin on 26 May 2004 it was agreed that this assessment be closed and the risk assessment published. Part of the package put forward by the UK and agreed by other member states is that the monitoring programme and the product stewardship emission reduction programme be regularly audited and monitored, with the programme lasting six years with a possible extension to 10 years if necessary. The published risk assessment would be reviewed in light of any relevant new data in this monitoring period. Any future risk reduction action resulting from this new data and associated restrictions would be discussed and agreed. The UK Government supports both these initiatives.

France has led the risk assessment process addressing human health, and has not requested risk reduction activity, though they wish to see more data on neurotoxicity. The industry has agreed to conduct the appropriate studies.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have left employment in her Department because of *(a)* anxiety, *(b)* stress, *(c)* depression and *(d)* other mental health reasons in each year since 1997. [175682]

Alun Michael: Defra does not hold information on the reasons why staff leave the Department at the level of detail requested. The number of Medical Retirement certificates issued for reasons of mental disorder in each year since Defra was created in 2001 was between zero and five (the actual numbers cannot be provided due to reasons of confidentiality).

English Nature

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many judicial reviews brought against English Nature between 1997 and 2003 in the House of Lords were *(a)* unsuccessful and *(b)* resulted in an order for costs being made against the applicant; and what the costs awarded were in each case. [181515]

Mr. Bradshaw: A judicial review commences in the High Court, with any appeal against that decision having to be made to Court of Appeal. Any appeal against the Court of Appeal's decision would then be made to the House of Lords.

English Nature has not been a party to any House of Lords hearing between 1997 and 2003.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review against English Nature were granted permission to proceed in the *(a)* High Court, *(b)* Court of Appeal and *(c)* House of Lords in each year between 1997 and 2003 by (i) individuals, (ii) non-governmental organisations and (ii) corporate entities. [181520]

Mr. Bradshaw: Application for judicial review can be made only to the High Court. Appeals arising from the

High Court case can be made to the Court of Appeal and then on to the House of Lords. Details for the years requested are as follows:

	Individuals	Non-governmental organisations	Corporate entities
High Court			
1997–2000	0	0	0
2001	1	0	1
2002	0	0	0
2003	0	0	1[1]
Court of Appeal			
1997–2002	0	0	0
2003	1	0	0
House of Lords			
1997–2003	0	0	0

[1] The Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal in 2004, with the hearing commencing in 2004.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many judicial reviews brought against English Nature between 1997 and 2003 in the *(a)* High Court, *(b)* Court of Appeal and *(c)* House of Lords (i) were successful and (ii) resulted in an order for costs being made against English Nature; and what costs were awarded in each case. [181521]

Mr. Bradshaw: English Nature has been successful in all proceedings brought between 1997 and 2003.

European Union Landscape Convention

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she intends to sign the European Union Landscape Convention. [181306]

Alun Michael: I am actively considering whether or not the United Kingdom should sign and ratify the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention. On 7 June I wrote to ministerial colleagues in those departments which have an interest in the Convention, setting out my proposals. Following consideration of the responses, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will seek the agreement of Government colleagues to the appropriate course of action.

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost per farm is of the introduction of integrated pollution prevention and control requirements. [180373]

Mr. Morley: The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (the PPC Regulations), which implement the 1996 EC Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), apply to large intensive livestock installations with more than 40,000 places for poultry, 2000 places for production pigs, or 750 places for sows. IPPC will ensure that the environmental impacts of these farms are assessed and minimised. New farms must apply for a PPC permit before they can carry out their operations and existing farms must apply for a permit by 31 January 2007.

Regulators are required by statute to recover their costs from the operators they regulate. In England and Wales, the Environment Agency has made a particular effort to lower the cost of regulation through the development of an 'off the shelf' permit for farmers, provided that they can comply with "Standard Farming Installation Rules". In the period 2004–05, the standard fee for a PPC permit application is 3,024. Once a permit is issued, the Environment Agency will charge an annual subsistence fee to cover the costs incurred in assessing compliance and maintaining the permit. These fees are 2,095 for a standard permit holder or 2,626 for the largest farms (more than 400,000 poultry, 20,000 production pigs, or 7,500 sows). For the purposes of the permit application, some farmers may decide to employ consultants to help them to complete the necessary records, audits and plans. The Standard Farming Rules, which were developed in consultation with industry, are based on "Best Available Techniques" (BAT) that aims to balance the cost to the operator against the benefits to the environment. Some of these techniques may be expensive, particularly for those older farms that have suffered from lack of capital investment in recent years. The changes will be sought through improvement conditions established on a farm-by-farm basis, at timescales agreed between the Environment Agency and the farmer.

Special Areas of Conservation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the criteria are for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) status; what scientific objections have been raised about the suitability of the peat bog areas at Bolton Fell Moss and Solway Moss as SACs; and when she expects a decision to be made about designating these peat bog areas as SACs. [182207]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* The criteria for SAC selection status is set out in Annex III of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Bolton Fell Moss and Solway Moss are being considered for SAC status for the presence of the habitat type "degraded raised bogs capable of natural regeneration". Scientific objections remain to be resolved concerning the areas of both sites that can be naturally restored. A decision will be made regarding designation once negotiations between English Nature and the objectors are complete.

TRANSPORT

A303

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to dual the A303. [182052]

Mr. Darling: There are a number of possible schemes to improve the A303, which are being considered at present. The scheme at Stonehenge is already part of the Targeted Programme of Improvements (TPI) and has recently been the subject of a Public Inquiry.

The Highways Agency is carrying out further work on four schemes, to the east of Ilminster. These are: Sparkford to Ilchester; Wylye to Stockton Wood; Chicklade Botton-Mere and the Ilminster bypass.

To the west of Ilminster, two options are being considered for the section of the A303 between Ilminster and Exeter. Announcements will be made in due course about the outcome of this consideration and the addition of any further schemes to the TPI.

Civil Aviation Authority

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Civil Aviation Authority in each year since 2001. [180886]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested for the Civil Aviation Authority is as follows:

(a) Total technical and financial contracts

Financial year ended 31 March	£
2002	3,614,410.14
2003	4,315,958.54
2004	3,808,328.95

(b) Technical consultants used on a call-off basis

I am informed that the Civil Aviation Authority does not hold call-off contracts for technical consultants.

(c) Financial consultants used on a call-off basis

Financial year ended 31 March	£
2002	0.00
2003	46,675.00
2004	0.00

Departmental Expenditure

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's expenditure was for each financial year from 2000–01 on *(a)* public opinion research, *(b)* television advertising, *(c)* radio advertising, *(d)* newspaper advertising, *(e)* other advertising and *(f)* direct mail. [180837]

Mr. McNulty: Expenditure figures for the last two financial years are set out as follows, with the majority of advertising spend being devoted to the THINK! road safety campaign.

In the financial year 2003–04 the Department spent £6 million on TV advertising, £2.5 million on radio advertising, £538,000 on print advertising, £89,000 on direct mail and £1.3 million on other advertising, including cinema.

In the financial year 2002–03, £5.6 million was spent on TV advertising, £2.6 million on radio advertising, £205,000 on print media advertising, £246,000 on direct mail (primarily on the Airports Consultation Campaign), and £1.1 million was spent on other advertising including cinema. Advertising to support the Airports consultation campaign comprised radio advertising costing £25,000 and print media advertising at £274,000.

£274,000 was devoted to print media advertising to promote the Travelling (public transport information line) campaign and print media advertising for the Vehicle Identity Checking campaign cost £122,000.

The figures for public opinion research have been given in the answer to PQ numbers 2322 03–04 and 2323 03–04 tabled separately by the hon. Member.

Breaking down the transport component of advertising for 2000–01 and 2001–02 could be done only at disproportionate cost as the Department for Transport was created in May 2002. In those previous two years, advertising expenditure supported the wider aims of the then Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions and the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions.

Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers

Mr. Pickthall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of new heavy goods vehicle drivers needed by the industry in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; [182179]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the supply of heavy goods vehicle drivers of the implementation in 2005 of the Working Hours Directive; and what discussions he has had with the haulage industry on this subject. [182180]

Mr. Jamieson: The Department has not made any detailed estimates by year of the industry's needs for new HGV drivers. But it is recognised that the key change in the need for HGV drivers will result from the introduction of EU working time legislation for road transport. In our regulatory impact assessment published last October we estimated that this will require around 12,000 extra drivers.

We have discussed the impact of the directive with representatives from the unions, the trade bodies and other key stakeholders in the road transport sector, and our plans for implementing the Directive were the subject of a full consultation exercise. Through the Road Haulage Forum we have been discussing with the industry the wider issues about recruitment and retention of HGV drivers, and the Government continues to fund projects to help the industry raise the profile of the profession and improve its image.

Railways

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many Rail Passenger Partnership scheme applications there were in each year from 2002–03 to date; and what the *(a)* status and *(b)* amount of (i) Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and (ii) non-SRA support is for each scheme that has been approved; [180750]

(2) if he will list the Rail Passenger Partnership scheme applications received by the Strategic Rail Authority in *(a)* 2002–03, *(b)* 2003–04 and *(c)* 2004–05 classified as (i) medium and (ii) major applications which received pre-qualified status; and what the total funding requested was in each case. [180751]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not readily available in precisely the form requested. Two tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The first table shows committed SRA funding for RPP schemes between 2002–03 and 2004–05, and the total value of funding committed for these schemes by other sponsors. SRA funding for some of these schemes will continue

beyond 2004–05. 44 bids were deferred by the SRA due to the suspension of the RPP fund in January 2003. These were bids that were under consideration by the SRA but which had not yet been approved. The SRA has accepted no new bids for RPP funds since it suspended the scheme in January 2003. However, funding started for a number of schemes in 2003–04. These were schemes that had been approved by the SRA before January 2003 and which the SRA subsequently contractualised.

The second table shows all schemes to date that were abandoned after having been approved by the SRA. In addition, the SRA has rejected 45 bids where funding was sought between 2002–03 and 2004–5. In some case bids can be rejected before they pre-qualify.

Schemes might be abandoned or rejected for a number of reasons including withdrawal of the bid by the sponsor, failure to meet the SRA's value for money and affordability criteria or failure to secure adequate third party sponsorship.

Vehicle Certification Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Vehicle Certification Agency in each year since 2001. [180896]

Mr. Jamieson: Since 2003–04 one of the Vehicle Certification Agency's Key Performance Indicators requires that a panel of two external technical experts evaluate the Agency's competency in type approval work. The technical experts are used on a call off basis and the total .value of work carried out in 2003–04 was £485.80. The Agency has no other technical contracts.

The Vehicle Certification Agency does not have any financial contracts, nor has it used any financial consultants since 2001.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Vehicle Certification Agency in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180901]

Mr. Jamieson: The Vehicle Certification Agency continues to use (and always has) the Department for Transport's legal and internal auditing services and these are soft charged between the Agency and the Department. The value of the legal service provided has not exceeded £25,000 since 2001. The value of internal auditing services has only exceeded £25,000 in 2002–03 and 2003–04 at £33,000 and £38,750 respectively.

External auditing is required to be carried out by the National Audit Office, the cost of which is soft charged, the value of which was £34,100 in 2000–01, £35,500 in 2001–02, £36,600 in 2002–03 and £43,830 in 2003–04.

The Vehicle Certification Agency provides it own financial services in-house.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Employment Rights (Clergy)

Mr. Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have had with the Department for Trade and Industry on section 23 employment rights for members of the clergy. [181938]

Sir Stuart Bell: None, but the Director of the Archbishops' Council's Ministry Division, is playing a full and constructive part in the working group recently established by the DTI to look at this issue.

EU Constitutional Treaty

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners were consulted on matters relating to reference to religion in the EU Constitutional Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [182413]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Archbishops' Council's Community and Public Affairs Unit rather than the Church Commissioners has taken the lead on this issue.

While much has been made of the debate regarding reference to God in the preamble to the European Constitution, this debate has obscured the significance attached by the churches to Article I-51 that provides for a regular, transparent and open dialogue between the Christian churches and the EU institutions. Conversations are now afoot between Churches and the Government as to how such a dialogue might be structured and maintained.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Civil Service Bill

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment the Department has made of the proposals for a Civil Service Bill put forward by the Public Administration Committee. [180725]

Mr. Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to publishing a draft Civil Service Bill for consultation in this parliamentary session. It will take account of the Public Administration Select Committee's work on a draft Civil Service Bill.

Electoral Register

Mr. Beith: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what his estimate is of the total number of persons on the electoral register who are registered at two or more addresses; and what he estimates would be the percentage national turnout figure in a general election at which all registered electors used their legal entitlement to vote. [182280]

Mr. Leslie: This information is not collected. Electors registered at more than one address are only legally entitled to vote once in a general election.

National Archives

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs for what reasons the file WO 195/15626 at the National Archives is closed; and if he will open it to the public. [182253]

Mr. Leslie: This file is retained by the Ministry of Defence on security grounds under the Lord Chancellor's Instrument LCI 28. Its access status will be reconsidered in 2005.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181342]

Mr. Lammy: In response to the Equal Opportunities Task Force report "Just Pay" my Department, in common with other Government Departments and agencies, completed an equality audit of pay in April 2003 and is nearing completion of a similar audit for 2004. A copy of the summaries for both annual audits, and their relevant action plans, will be placed in the Library shortly.

There are two non-departmental public bodies for which the Parliamentary Secretary is responsible. The Office of the Information Commissioner completed an equality audit of its pay system in 2003. There are no plans to publish the report.

The Legal Services Commission completed a report on a range of equalities-related monitoring data—covering race and disability as well as gender. This will be published in the Commission's Equalities Annual Report for 2003–04 and made available later this year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Intellectual Property Rights Forum

Mr. Chris Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her answer of 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1548W, on intellectual property rights, when she expects to announce the formation and composition of the forum. [182055]

Estelle Morris: An announcement will be made before the House rises.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Regional Assembly Referendums

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence the Committee has had since 10 June with the Electoral Commission concerning the regional assembly referendums; and if he will place copies of such correspondence in the Library. [182348]

Mr. Viggers: The Speaker's Committee is a statutory committee, appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Its locus in relation to the Electoral Commission's stance on policy matters is only to satisfy itself, having regard to any advice from the Treasury and the most recent report and recommendations of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Commission has used its resources, that any Commission Estimate and the accompanying Plan are consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by it of its functions: the Speaker's Committee has no duty or power to exercise oversight of policy positions of the Electoral Commission beyond this.

Consistent with these principles, there have been no meetings, nor has there been any correspondence, between the Speaker's Committee and the Electoral Commission on the matter of the regional assembly referendums.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Iraq

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of funds held in the Development Fund for Iraq has been paid to foreign firms; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [181962]

Hilary Benn: Over 70 per cent. of the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) has been for Iraqi ministry operations and expenses: salaries, pensions, operating costs and some used capital project requirements. Much of this is domestic expenditure, although the provision of food and other goods through the public distribution system involves imports from outside Iraq.

The remaining 30 per cent. has been allocated for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. Our latest information indicates that between July 2003 and June 2004 the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) allocated about $6.9 billion, of which approximately $1.8 billion has been disbursed. DFID does not have aggregated data on the nationality of firms that have won contracts for these projects, but some details of the recipients of contracts are available on the CPA website (www.cpa-iraq.org). Many contracts with non-Iraqi firms involve sub-contracts with Iraq firms and employ Iraqi labour.

The International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB) oversees the management of the DFI on behalf of the international community. It is currently auditing the CPA's administration of the DFI and a report is due soon.

Anti-retroviral Drugs

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that health infrastructure, reproductive health supplies and testing kits are in place before anti-retroviral drugs are used on patients in developing countries. [181168]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: DFID looks to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for technical guidance on the implementation of anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment programmes. In their recommendations to implement the '3 by 5' initiative to get three million people on treatment by 2005—which DFID supports—WHO outlines the minimum conditions that should be in place before commencing anti-retroviral treatment. These include HIV testing and counselling, trained personnel, an uninterrupted supply of anti-retroviral drugs and a secure and confidential patient record system.

Almost all DFID support for anti-retroviral drugs will be delivered through the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM). The Fund also requests applicant countries to develop proposals which use international best practices and which coordinate with other initiatives, including '3 by 5'.

DFID provides substantial support (£1.5 billion since 1997) to strengthen health systems that aim to ensure access to effective, affordable and appropriate health care. This supports staff, critical budgets including drugs, improved planning and management systems and means for monitoring progress.

DFID also contributes to the provision of reproductive health supplies including condoms through a range of approaches; support to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to ensure security of reproductive health items; funding to GFATM, direct budget support to governments; and substantial project support to governments and NGOs to provide critical supplies and to strengthen access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Forces for Good

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* logistical and *(b)* practical help the BBC asked of his Department in the preparation of the programme with the working title, Forces for Good; what assistance his Department (i) has provided and (ii) is providing; and if he will make a statement. [181951]

Hilary Benn: The BBC has not asked DFID for any assistance or advice in preparation of the programme with the working title, Forces for Good. Given our current understanding of the programme, DFID has not, nor does it intend to, provide either logistical or practical help.

India (Breast Cancer Screening)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the UK is providing to India to set up mobile breast cancer screening units. [181406]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently support the establishment of mobile breast cancer screening units in India.

DFID does provide substantial support to improve access to and the quality of health care in India, and has played an important role in getting donors to work more closely together to support Government of India plans for an integrated, sector-wide approach to health care. Priority health programmes currently supported by DFID include action to tackle HIV/AIDS, improve reproductive and child health, and eradicate polio. Total DFID financial support to the health sector to improve health outcomes in India in 2004–05 is likely to exceed £73.25 million.

Military and Humanitarian Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations have been made to *(a)* him and *(b)* his Department since January 2003 by representatives of (i) non-governmental organisations and (ii) multinational organisations concerning the distinction between military forces and operations and humanitarian organisations and relief efforts; what examples were given; what the outcome was; and if he will make a statement. [181952]

Hilary Benn: DFID believes that military involvement in the direct provision of humanitarian assistance should be undertaken only in exceptional circumstances and at the request of the relevant humanitarian co-ordinator. Humanitarian assistance should be apolitical. In a conflict environment any perception that there are links between military forces and the delivery of humanitarian assistance may jeopardise the humanitarian community's access to populations in need and render beneficiaries and workers more vulnerable to attack.

DFID conducts continuing dialogue with the humanitarian community and military forces to develop a better understanding of respective mandates and sensitivities. DFID officials meet regularly with non-governmental organisations operating in conflict environments, to discuss the range of humanitarian issues relevant to particular crises and where appropriate, these discussions include civil/military issues.

I met with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Disasters Emergency Committee on 28 April 2004. During our meeting, we discussed the boundaries between the role of military and humanitarian workers. I invited the Disasters Emergency Committee to inform me of specific incidences of problems with the civil/military interface in conflict situations and they undertook to do so when necessary. This issue has also been raised with me by NGO's.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people dependent on food aid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [181931]

Hilary Benn: According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Programme, approximately 1.7 million Palestinians in 2003 were dependent on some form of food aid. With rising poverty and unemployment, the food security situation has considerably deteriorated over the past three years. Food insecurity is a reality for 40 per cent. of the population and a considerable worry for a further 30 per cent. who are under threat of becoming food insecure should current conditions persist. People's access to food and farmers ability to

produce food have been severely affected by restrictions on the movement of people and goods and the damages to personal property.

Somalia

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what efforts his Department has undertaken to analyse the impact on the humanitarian situation in Somalia of the return of failed Somali asylum seekers. [181828]

Hilary Benn: The Home Office has returned only a small number of failed asylum seekers to Somalia this year. The impact of such small numbers on the overall humanitarian situation would be negligible.

CABINET OFFICE

Emergency Planning

Mr. Flook: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed by each local authority in the South West on emergency planning in each of the last three years; and if he will estimate the number employed in each case in 2004–05. [177191]

Mr. Alexander: While decisions about staffing of any local authority service is a matter for individual authorities, the Government are committed through the Civil Contingencies Bill, presently before Parliament, to establishing a clear framework of roles and responsibilities for local responders.

Public Appointments (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the process is for selection of the Constable of the Castle of Lancaster; and who makes the final decision on appointment. [181449]

Mr. Alexander: While the Constable of Lancaster Castle is a personal honorary appointment of Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Her Duchy of Lancaster, the Duchy of Lancaster consult the Lord-Lieutenant as the Queen's personal representative in Lancashire, and takes soundings from the local area. A recommendation is made by me as the Chancellor to Her Majesty the Queen as a result of the Duchy of Lancaster inquiries.

Public Bodies Document

Tony Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office why, and when, it was decided to discontinue publication in hard copy of the annual Public Bodies document. [181224]

Mr. Alexander: I took the decision in 2003, prior to the issue of "Public Bodies 2003". It was taken in connection with a move from a paper directory towards an on-line searchable database. Last year represented a transitional phase where the directory was made available on the Cabinet Office website as a .pdf file. However, we made arrangements to deposit printouts of "Public Bodies 2003" from the website in the Library.

As I announced in my reply to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) on 4 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1444W, we hope the new searchable database containing 2004 data, currently being developed, will be available before the end of the year. It will have a 'print' facility for users, and we will again ensure complete printouts from it are placed in the Library.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many prisoners have been captured or held by United Kingdom forces in Afghanistan since January 2002; how many were charged with offences; how many have been released without charge; and how many were transferred to the custody of *(a)* the US authorities, *(b)* the Afghan Interim Authority and *(c)* ISAF/NATO authorities; [181558]

(2) how many prisoners are being detained in Afghanistan under the authority of *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* the United States and *(c)* NATO. [181560]

Mr. Ingram: No prisoners have been captured by British forces operating in Afghanistan since January 2002 and neither the United Kingdom nor NATO holds any prisoners in Afghanistan. Any detainees held by the United States are a matter for the United States Government.

Bomb Disposal Suits

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress in introducing the Army's bomb disposal Mk V EOD explosive ordnance suits. [181489]

Mr. Ingram: A development contract for Mk V EOD explosive ordnance suits will finish shortly and once this contract has been satisfactorily completed it is intended to let a production contract.

Chapelcross Production Plant

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to decommission the Chapelcross Production Plant; and if he will make a statement. [179690]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

On 29 June, British Nuclear Group announced the end of electricity generation at Chapelcross power station. Subject to the successful passage of the Energy Bill, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) will from April 2005 be responsible for the Magnox power stations, including the decommissioning and clean up of the Chapelcross site.

Future Aircraft Carrier Programme

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress with the Royal Navy's Future Aircraft Carrier programme. [181487]

Mr. Ingram: The Future Carrier (CVF) programme remains in the Assessment Phase. Ministers are currently considering proposals on the overall CVF programme, the Alliance strategy and on when to

proceed to the Demonstration and Manufacture Phases. We expect to make an announcement when these deliberations are complete.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information he has examined in relation to the death of *(a)* Ahmad Jabbar Kareem, *(b)* Mr. Waleed Fayay Muzban, *(c)* Mr. Raid Hadi Al Musaeui, *(d)* Ms Hanan Shmailawi, *(e)* Muhammed Abdul Ridha Salim, *(f)* Jaafer Hashin Majeed and *(g)* Alher Karim Khalaf. [158854]

Mr. Ingram: The deaths of the first six individuals named were all raised by Public Interest Lawyers and form part of the Judicial Review to be held in July. Currently two of these are subject to on-going Service Police investigations and it would be inappropriate to give details. The final name is not recognised.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions and on what dates allegations of wrongdoing by British service personnel in Iraq since the beginning of the second Gulf Conflict have been reported by members of HM Forces to their headquarters or to his Department; and whether any of these have not been investigated. [171551]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 10 May 2004]:* UK armed forces personnel are subject to English criminal law wherever in the world they are deployed. All substantive allegations or suspicions involving activity of a criminal nature, no matter by whom they are reported, are investigated by the Service Police. Since the beginning of operations in Iraq, the Service Police have been involved in over 950 investigations covering a wide range of incidents. Information on how many allegations of wrongdoings by British service personnel in Iraq have been made and on what dates is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Manned Turret Integration Programme

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on progress on introducing the Manned Turret Integration Programme for the Army's Warrior infantry combat vehicle; [181482]

(2) if he will make a statement on progress with the Army's Manned Turret Integration Programme. [181490]

Mr. Ingram: The Manned Turret Integration Programme (MTIP) is a Technology Demonstrator Programme (TDP) examining integration of an advanced automatic cannon into a new turret housing along with all the associated systems. It will provide evidence to inform the decision-making process for possible firepower upgrades of existing platforms such as Warrior and for new platforms such as the Future Rapid Effects System (FRES).

On 7 June 2004 the Defence Procurement Agency placed a contract with Cased Telescoped Ammunition International (CTAI) to conduct and report on a series of risk-reduction demonstrations on various elements of the CTAI manned turret, mounting the 40mm Cased Telescoped Weapon System (CTWS) and its associated turret sub-systems. This is due to be completed by March 2005.

Prisons

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his Department's rules for the interrogation of prisoners held in British-run military and civilian prisons in Iraq; who is responsible for ensuring that such rules on interrogation are followed; and if he will make a statement. [177242]

Mr. Ingram: All UK interrogators must successfully complete a stringent course prior to undertaking any operational interrogations. During the course they are specifically instructed that individuals being questioned must be treated at all times in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

The Officer Commanding the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility is responsible for the conduct of UK personnel within it. An intelligence officer from the Multinational Division (Southeast) is responsible for ensuring that UK interrogators follow the interrogation procedures.

UK Exports (Promotion Costs)

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much providing UK equipment and armed forces for demonstrations for the purpose of promoting UK exports has cost over the last three years. [180142]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 351W, concerning the operating costs of the Export Support Teams.

Other costs associated with providing United Kingdom equipment and armed forces for export demonstrations are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Councillors' Pay

Mr. Steen: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much public money he estimates was spent in paying councillors a remuneration in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 1997–98. [182441]

Mr. Raynsford: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The setting of local allowance levels is a matter for local authorities, taking account of local circumstances and the views of an independent remuneration panel.

Fire Service

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his latest estimate is of the degree of compliance by trade unions representing fire service employees with the terms of the settlement by which the industrial action in 2002–03 was ended. [181568]

Mr. Raynsford: Compliance with the Fire and Rescue Service pay and modernisation agreement is primarily a matter for the two parties to that agreement, although this is subject to review by independent audit[1]. Payment of the outstanding 3.5 per cent. and 4.2 per cent. increases

under the agreement is dependent on (i) verification of progress on the ground and (ii) completion of negotiations on terms and conditions. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister understands that the second and final verification reports on modernisation are due out shortly. The General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union wrote to all MPs on 17 May 2004 reporting that (on 11 May) "conference unanimously decided to withdraw from implementing the June 2003 agreement". This is a factor which we would expect the verification reports to take into account.

[1] Audit Commission (England and Wales), Accounts Commission (Scotland), and Government (Northern Ireland).

Homelessness (London)

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the proportion of homeless households in London who are families with children requiring *(a)* two-bed and *(b)* three or more-bed accommodation. [181664]

Phil Hope: No estimates of likely accommodation requirements for homeless households with children are made by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Information supplied by local authorities about the number of households which have been accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need distinguishes between those containing one, two, or three or more children, and also those households containing an expectant mother but no other children. Estimates of such households in London based on information reported during 2003–04 are tabled as follows.

Households accepted as homeless in London: 2003–04

	Number	*Percentage*
Households containing		
One child	9,580	30
Two children	4,010	13
Three or more children	2,950	9
All families with children (total)	16,480	52
Expectant mother	3,930	12
Other households	11,120	35
All accepted households	31,530	100

Notes:
1. Estimates include imputation for any non-responding authorities.
2. Totals may not equal sum of components because of rounding.

Source:
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly).

Multi-occupancy Housing

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many houses in multiple occupation there were in each year since 1997. [182163]

Keith Hill: The English House Condition Survey estimated that there were 743,000 houses in multiple occupation in 1996 and 638,000 in 2001 in England: estimates for intermediate and later years are not held centrally. The next English House Condition Survey results are expected later this year.

Rural Development

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether land on which redundant intensive livestock buildings are situated within 400 m of a dwelling and which is development requiring planning permission constitutes *(a)* brownfield land and *(b)* previously developed land under PPG3. [182168]

Keith Hill: Brownfield land is referred to as "previously-developed" land for the purposes of applying the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's planning for housing policies set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 "Housing" (PPG3). The definition, with explanatory notes, of previously-developed land is set out in Annex C of PPG3 and is based on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS) Guidance. The definition includes all LUCS urban land uses (except 'vacant land within urban areas not previously-developed') and excludes agricultural land and buildings. Therefore, redundant intensive livestock buildings are excluded from the previously-developed land definition, irrespective of the fact that they require planning permission where they are situated within 400 m of a dwelling.

Unsafe Accommodation (Prosecutions)

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many landlords have been prosecuted under health and safety legislation for providing unsafe accommodation in each of the last five years. [182166]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister does not hold information on prosecutions of landlords of housing accommodation arising from enforcement action by local authorities.

Wind Farms (Public Inquiries)

Nick Harvey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister under what circumstances an objection from a principal local authority to a planning application for a wind farm which is to be determined by the Department of Trade and Industry would give rise to a public inquiry being held; and whether he proposes to change the criteria for such public inquiries. [180651]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Schedule 8 to the Electricity Act 1989 requires the Secretary of State to hold a public inquiry when the relevant planning authority notifies her that they object to the application and their objection is not withdrawn. Even if the relevant planning authority does not object, the Secretary of State has the discretionary power to call for a public inquiry in light of other objections received. There are no plans to change the criteria.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

City Academies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to expand the city academy programme; and if he will make a statement. [181794]

Mr. Miliband: The Government are committed to the academies programme, and I have made it clear in the past that I would welcome a significant expansion in the number of academies around the country. We are currently considering our plans for academies as part of our decisions on spending review allocations.

The Department will be publishing its five-year strategy, of which our proposals for academies will form part, in mid-July. I will be very pleased to make a statement at that time.

Dentistry

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much spending has been allocated to dental school capital expenditure this year as a result of his Department's budget settlement; [181640]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Department of Health regarding the NHS dental workforce review. [181645]

Alan Johnson: The internal disposition of the Department's 2004 Spending Review settlement has not yet been finalised. We will be writing to the Higher Education Funding Council for England later in the year when decisions have been taken, including decisions about capital allocations. My officials have discussions from time to time with the Treasury and the Department of Health about a range of matters, including the NHS Dental Workforce Review.

Education Costs

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1430W, on education costs, what estimate his Department holds of *(a)* the number of pupils aged (i) four to 11 years and (ii) 11 to 18 years in private education and *(b)* the average cost of educating a pupil in the state sector in (A) primary and (B) secondary schools. [181077]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* There were 237,665 pupils aged 4–10 years and 303,561 pupils aged 11–18 years in independent schools in England as at January 2003. 2003 figures are provided as they relate to the 2002–03 financial year, which is the latest year for which outturn data are available.

The estimated provisional recurrent cost per primary pupil, including both the cost to the school and the costs incurred by the LEA, in 2002–03 was £2,940. The equivalent cost for secondary was £3,620.

Non-qualified Teachers

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of pupils under the age of 16 who are being taught for at least part of the week by non-qualified teachers in colleges of further education. [181999]

Mr. Charles Clarke *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* There are no estimates on the number of young people under the age of 16 being taught by qualified or non-qualified teachers. Data collected by the LSC in the Staff Individualised Record (SIR) show that in 2002/03 there were just over 134,000 teaching staff, of which about 84,000 had a recognised teaching qualification.

Rural School Funding

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to assist rural schools in high property cost areas with *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* salary difficulties. [181980]

Mr. Miliband: The Teacher Training Agency is funded to support local education authority-based recruitment managers who can provide a co-ordinated local approach to vacancy filling for schools facing the greatest recruitment and retention problems. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's housing support schemes have helped teachers living in some high property cost areas. All schools must meet salary costs from the budget allocated by their local education authority, but the school funding system includes a factor to reflect the higher costs of recruitment and retention in some areas. The statutory pay arrangements give significant discretion to schools to make pay decisions to address any local recruitment and retention difficulties.

Special Educational Needs (Transport Provision)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of its special educational needs budget in 2003–04 Brent council allocated to meet the transport requirements of children with special educational needs. [180098]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 22 June 2004]:* The available data show that in 2003–04 Brent allocated £2,772,000 to transport of pupil to special schools. This compares with a budget of £13.0 million of SEN, including SEN aspects of the schools budget and the LEA budget, and the ISB for special schools. Transport costs are not a component of this total and the proportion that they make of this total is therefore not given.

Surplus School Places

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the resource implications for *(a)* schools and *(b)* local education authorities of maintaining surplus school places. [173098]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 14 May 2004]:* It is for local education authorities (LEAs) to balance the supply of places in their area, to ensure schools serve the needs

of their local communities and provide good quality education in the most cost effective way. We have, however, given popular and successful schools a presumption that they can expand, whether there are surplus places in the area or not. Surplus places may represent a poor use of resources, particularly where schools perform poorly. One consideration for LEAs is whether the resources used to fund empty places would be better deployed to fund further places in popular and successful schools.

Teaching Staff Costs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that schools with an above average number of high rated staff are able to recover the associated cost in full from the local education authority or his Department. [181981]

Mr. Miliband: Good, experienced teachers have been able to cross the performance threshold since September 2000 and the cost of this is fully funded by central Government. Such teachers may also make further progress along the upper pay scale, should their performance merit it. We have always been clear we would not fund such progression fully, but provide substantial grants towards the costs, totalling some £229 million in 2004–05. In addition, a grant totalling £48 million is available to support performance pay awards made to leadership group teachers.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that costs incurred by schools in implementing staffing structures and management points are repaid to schools. [181982]

Mr. Miliband: It is for schools to manage their own budgets as they see fit. In taking decisions on changes to staffing structures and the award of management allowances, schools need to take full account of the potential impact on their budget. Total funding per pupil has increased by an estimated[1] average £880 in real terms between 1997–98 and 2004–05. The current 2.5 year teachers' pay award provides a stable context for schools to manage such changes.

[1] Includes provisional estimates of grants and allocations still to be confirmed. Total funding per pupil aged 3–19 includes Education Formula Spending (EPS) and all relevant grants in the DfES departmental Expenditure Limits. For comparability, figures exclude the pensions transfer to the Learning and Skills Council and EFS in 2003–04 and 2004–05. Real terms at 2002–03 prices.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Biological Materials (US Exports)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 796W, on Biological Materials (US Exports), what he has made of the 1994 US Senate Riegle Report. [181491]

Mr. MacShane: The Government are aware of Senator Donald Riegle's 1994 report. Our responses to previous questions on the supply of biological materials to Iraq from the United States have been based upon our reading of the report.

Programme Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* cash provision and *(b)* cash outturn was for the (i) Programme Sub-Saharan Africa, (ii) Programme Rest of the World, (iii) Peacekeeping Sub-Saharan Africa and (iv) Peacekeeping Rest of the World requests for resources two subheads in financial years (A) 2001–02, (B) 2002–03 and (C) 2003–04. [181775]

Mr. Rammell: The information is as follows:

(i) The cash provision to, and expenditure for, the Programme element of the Sub-Saharan Africa Conflict Prevention Pool for financial years 2001 to 2004 was:

nearest £ million

Financial year	*Funds allocated*	*Spend*
2001–02	50	43
2002–03	50	45
2003–04	50	[1] + 40

(ii) The cash provision to, and expenditure for, the Programme element of the Rest of the World Conflict Prevention Pool for financial years 2002 to 2004 was:

nearest £ million

Financial year	*Funds allocated*	*Spend*
2001–02	60	50
2002–03	68	66
2003–04	74	[1]85

(iii) The cash provision to, and the expenditure for, the Peacekeeping element of the Sub-Saharan Africa Conflict Prevention Pool for financial years 2001 to 2004 was:

nearest £ million

Financial year	*Funds allocated*	*Spend*
2001–02	52	76
2002–03	99	62
2003–04	87	[1]92

(iv) The cash provision to, and expenditure for, the Peacekeeping element of the Rest of the World Conflict Prevention Pool for financial years 2001 to 2004 was:

nearest £ million

Financial year	*Funds allocated*	*Spend*
2001–02	448	382
2002–03	406	324
2003–04	250	[1]198

[1] Current forecast: accounts to be finalised in summer 2004.

Colombia

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to President Uribe of Colombia regarding the status of human rights work at the San Jose De Apartado peace community. [181979]

Mr. Rammell: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Dr. Tonge) on 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 126W. During my visit to Colombia in late June, I specifically raised with Vice-President Santos the need to support and respect the work of non-governmental organisations like Peace Brigades International who have been working with local partners in support of the San Jose De Apartado peace community. We have always maintained that the work of such organisations is highly important and should be encouraged by the Colombian Government. Civil society has a valuable role to play in helping the Colombian Government address the immense problems the country faces.

Cyprus

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the authorities in the south of Cyprus to permit British citizens holding EU passports to cross to and from the north without hindrance, regardless of the port or airport through which they entered the island. [182402]

Mr. MacShane: Yes.

European Constitution

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the additional policy areas and decisions to be taken by majority voting under the agreed European Constitution. [181690]

Mr. MacShane: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 5 July 2004 (UIN 180436).

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list each of the areas of decision-making in which the United Kingdom lost its power of veto when the previous Government signed up to *(a)* the Single European Act 1986 and *(b)* the Maastricht Treaty. [180795]

Mr. MacShane: Under the Single European Act, five Articles were moved from a unanimous voting base to Qualified Majority Voting (QMV): altering or suspending autonomous duties in the common commercial Tariff, free movement of workers, freedom of third country nationals established in the Community to provide services, co-ordination of exchange policies to liberalise movement of capital and extension of the Treaty Title on Transport to sea and air transport. Seven new Articles were introduced at QMV: three relating to the internal market and four on: health and safety of workers, the implementing decision relating to the European Regional Development Fund, the adoption of specific Research and Development programmes within the unanimously agreed multi-annual framework programme and the power to adopt certain measures if these had been unanimously agreed in the Council.

Under the Maastricht Treaty, two areas were moved from a unanimous voting base to QMV (Transport Safety and Environmental Measures). 28 new Treaty provisions were introduced at QMV: movement of capital to and from third countries, safeguard measures, movement of capital and payments to implement sanctions, visas, broad economic guidelines, bail-out fund in the event of a natural disaster; definition for applying prohibition on assuming financial liability, excessive deficit procedure, harmonising coins, ECSB Statutes, Exchange Rate Agreements, Economic and Financial Committee, Consultation of Economic and Monetary Institute, mutual assistance in the event of balance of payment difficulties, protective measures, moving to State II of EMU, EMU Stage III derogations, education, public health, consumer protection, TENs guidelines, development co-operation, regulation and conditions for the performance of the Ombudsman's tasks, Allowances of ESC members. Measures to implement sanctions, decisions implementing CFSP joint actions if use of QMV had been unanimously agreed at the Council, decisions implementing JHA joint actions if use of QMV had been agreed unanimously in the Council and Application of specified EC Treaty provisions on some aspects of JHA.

Gibraltar

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Spain concerning the future of Gibraltar. [182044]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met his Spanish counterpart, Senor Moratinos, on 20 May. They discussed a wide range of issues, including Gibraltar.

Inclusive Government

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the distribution of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office document "Inclusive Government: Mainstreaming Gender into Foreign Policy" will be; and what follow-up is planned in terms of policy development. [181523]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The booklet "Inclusive Government: Mainstreaming Gender into Foreign Policy" is intended primarily as an internal Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) resource. We have sent copies to all our Departments and overseas Posts, and placed it on the FCO's internal website. We have also distributed the document to external contacts, including members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, other hon. Members and Peers, NGOs, and journalists among

others, for information. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement to the House on 10 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 16WS, and copies were placed in the Library of the House. It is also available on the FCO's website, www.fco.gov.uk.

The booklet gives guidance on taking gender issues fully into account in foreign policy, and provides examples of best practice of how the FCO is already doing this. We plan to review the guidelines after one year, to assess their impact both on policy development and on practical outcomes.

Iraq

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions *(a)* exist at present and *(b)* will exist after 30 June for the extradition to Iraq of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff and military personnel accused of wrongdoing in that country. [181574]

Mr. Straw: There is in place a bilateral extradition treaty between the UK and Iraq dating from 1933 (UKTS 13/1933).

Members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and military personnel operating in Iraq prior to 28 June had immunity under CPA Order 17. UK forces continue to have immunity under CPA Order 17 and members of our diplomatic and consular staff have immunities under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations respectively.

Members of the FCO are nevertheless subject to section 31 of the Criminal Justice Act 1948 and can in certain cases be tried in England for an offence committed in Iraq. UK armed forces, wherever they operate in the world, are subject to the UK military disciplinary process. The UK's domestic law provides that soldiers and anyone else subject to service law can be tried in military courts (courts martial) for acts, which they commit overseas, if those acts would constitute a criminal offence if committed in the UK. These military courts are competent to try all criminal offences, including the most serious criminal offences.

Iraq Survey Group

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to receive the final report of the Iraq Survey Group. [181759]

Mr. MacShane: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hamilton, South (Mr. Tynan) on 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 799W.

Lithuania

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the legitimacy of Lithuania's recent presidential elections. [182175]

Mr. MacShane: We have no reason to question the assessment of the Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Lithuania who has confirmed that the presidential elections were carried out in accordance with the constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

Russian Tourists

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what charges are made to Russians when applying for a tourist visa to the United Kingdom. [181549]

Mr. Mullin: Our visa fees are set on a worldwide basis and are the same irrespective of the country in which an application is made. Our standard visit visa is valid for multiple entries for a six-month period: the fee is currently set at £36 payable in local currency. In Russia this would equate to 1,980 Roubles at the current consular exchange rate of 55 Roubles to the pound.

Longer visit visas are available allowing multiple entries providing no one visit exceeds a six-month duration. One, two, five and 10 year visit visa fees are 3,300 Roubles (£60), 3,850 Roubles (£70), 4,840 Roubles (£88) and 8,250 Roubles (£150) respectively. These rates have applied since 13 February 2004 but are subject to change according to currency fluctuations.

HOME DEPARTMENT

ASBOs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders imposed at magistrates courts in the last three years have subsequently been overturned on appeal. [181508]

Ms Blears: Data collected for antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are currently available up to 31 December 2003. The Home Office has not been notified of any ASBOs issued by the magistrates courts that have been overturned on appeal by this date.

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued since the enactment of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Lancashire police force area and *(c)* the Borough of Burnley. [181519]

Ms Blears: The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 received Royal Assent on 20 November 2003. The powers in the Act came into force gradually, with the first group of provisions commencing on 20 January 2004. Data on antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) are currently available up to 31 December 2003 only. Information is given in the table on the numbers of ASBOs issued within England, Lancashire and the Borough of Burnley for 2003, prior to commencement of the 2003 Act. Data for the first quarter 2004 will be published on the Crime Reduction website by 16 July.

Bogus Traders

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to encourage closer co-operation between the police and trading standards departments to tackle bogus traders and distraction burglaries. [181704]

Ms Blears: Police and trading standards departments in many areas are already working increasingly effectively with each other and with other agencies, particularly those involved with older people.

At the national level, in October 2003 the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Police Standards Unit published the "Domestic Burglary National Good Practice and Tactical Options Guide".

Among other things, this identifies good practice in relation to combating doorstep crime and recommends establishing formal protocols for sharing of information and intelligence with other enforcement agencies. We are discussing with the ACPO Burglary Working Group options for further improving effective working relationships in this area.

Following the Office of Fair Trading's report on doorstep selling, we will continue to liaise with the Department for Trade and Industry to look at what more can be done.

Bribery

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what enforcement measures are available under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 to prevent UK citizens bribing foreign officials. [180149]

Paul Goggins: Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 contains provisions clarifying the application of our law of bribery overseas and introducing jurisdiction over UK nationals and UK incorporated bodies who commit bribery overseas. The provisions will be enforced by police forces or, in cases which fall within its remit, by the Serious Fraud Office.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will commission a joint review with the Attorney-General's office of the reasons why no prosecutions for bribery of a foreign public official have been brought under *(a)* the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 and *(b)* other legislation dealing with corruption offences since 1989. [181836]

Paul Goggins: No. The legislation on bribery is contained in the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889–1916, which were amended by the 2001 Act. Home Office figures show that over the 10 years, 1993–2002, the average annual number of prosecutions for all types of bribery under these Acts, whether in the public or private sector, was 21. We do not keep a record of the persons bribed. While there has been only one reported Appeal Court case concerning a prosecution for bribery of a foreign public official (Raud, 1989 Crim LR 809), in the period it is not necessarily the most recent case of its kind. Also, cases involving bribery may give rise to other charges. The prosecution of the bribery of foreign public officials has to be viewed in this context.

Fixed Penalty Notices (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers Lancashire Police have to serve fixed penalty notices; and how many have been served, and for what offences, in each of the Lancashire constituencies. [180419]

Ms Blears: Police officers have the power to issue fixed penalty notices under section 54 of the Road Traffic Offences Act 1988 for a range of offences listed in Schedule 3 to that Act, including parking and speeding offences. Provisional figures from Lancashire police are that from 1 January 2004 to 22 June 2004, a total of 16,434 fixed penalty notices were issued in Lancashire for road traffic offences. Of these 1,339 were for endorseable offences and 15,095 non-endorseable, most of the latter being for parking offences. Details of fixed penalty notices issued in 2002 are given in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 5/04 titled Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics England and Wales 2002. This report can be accessed on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/motor1.html

In addition police have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for eleven disorder offences under sections 1 to 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. This scheme was introduced in Lancashire from 5 January 2004. Since this date provisional data provided by Lancashire police show that a total of 1,041 penalty notices for disorder have been issued. The table provides a breakdown of the offences for which these have been issued.

Figures for numbers of fixed penalty notices issued are not available by constituency.

Penalty offence	*Penalty notices issued*[1]
Causing harassment, alarm or distress (s5 Public Order Act 1986)	285
Drinking in a designated public place (s12 Criminal Justice Act 2001)	17
Drunk and disorderly (s91 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967)	712
Drunk in the highway (s12 of the Licensing Act 1872)	17
Knowingly give false alarm to a fire brigade (s31 of the Fire Services Act 1947)	2
Using public electronic communications network to cause annoyance (s127(2) of the Communications Act 2003)	1
Throwing Fireworks (s80 Explosives Act 1875)	1
Throwing stones at a train (s56 British Transport Commission Act 1949)	1
Wasting police time, giving false report (s5 Criminal Law Act 1967)	5
Total	1,041

[1] Provisional figures.

Anti-social Behaviour Act

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have occurred in behaviour since the implementation of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. [179828]

Ms Blears *[holding answer 23 June 2004]*: The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures the extent to which people view particular types of behaviour as a problem in their local area—not direct measures of behaviour and subsequent changes.

Latest BCS data show that the proportion of people who perceived a high level of antisocial behaviour in their area had fallen from 21 per cent. in interviews in 2002 to 18 per cent. in 2003 (a statistically significant fall)—Quarterly Update for year ending December 2003.

Criminal Justice Act

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will repeal of section 127 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [179544]

Paul Goggins: It is our intention to disapply section 127 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 by utilising the provision available through the Regulatory Reform Act 2001.

We intend to facilitate this, as parliamentary time allows, dependent on a positive vote by the Prison Officers' (POA) to accept the new Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement (JIRPA).

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts within England, Lancashire and the Borough of Burnley, as reported to the Home Office, up to 31 December 2003[1]

Area	*Total issued*
England	1,904
Lancashire	72
Of which:	
Burnley BC	17

[1] Latest available

Drug Treatment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the Government targets are for waiting times for drug rehabilitation treatment; what the waiting times were in Somerset in the latest 12 months for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of the extent to which drug rehabilitation treatment programmes in Somerset meet the clinical needs of drug users; and if he will make a statement; [163884]

(2) what the prescribing budget of the Somerset Drugs Service was in each year from 1995–96 to 2003–04; what the budget will be in 2004–05; and if he will make a statement; [163896]

(3) what action is being taken by the National Treatment Agency to prioritise drug rehabilitation waiting times in Somerset following the letter of 26 February 2004 to the hon. Member for Yeovil from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State; [163897]

(4) what his latest estimate is of waiting times for drug rehabilitation treatment in South Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [163898]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 390.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will encourage joint commissioning for drug services to ensure that individuals' other social care needs are met. [182231]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

As part of any treatment package for a drug misuser, a full clinical assessment has to take place. The document, Models of Care, published by the National Treatment Agency in 2002, makes clear that to achieve best results in tackling a person's drug misuse, a holistic approach must be taken. This includes a drugs misuser's social care needs such as addressing mental health problems and homelessness.

Drug Service Providers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the length is of the contracts now being tendered for by providers of drugs services to HM prisons in England and Wales. [181825]

Paul Goggins: The length of contracts now being tendered between the Prison Service and drug service providers will be for a maximum of seven years. They will be three-year contracts, with an option to extend by two further periods of two years. These extensions are conditional on good performance.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many heavy goods vehicles were reported stolen in each year since 1998; [181190]

(2) what the detection rate was for stolen heavy goods vehicles in each year since 1998. [181191]

Ms Blears: This information is not collected centrally. The available information relates to the general classification of theft of a vehicle and it is not possible to identify what type of vehicle has been stolen.

Internet Chatrooms

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for *(a)* police forces and *(b)* the National Crime Squad routinely and proactively to monitor paedophile activity in internet chatrooms; whether additional funding has recently been allocated to the monitoring of chatrooms; what recent guidelines he has issued to police forces on this subject; and if he will make a statement. [182096]

Paul Goggins: Child protection and abuse investigation teams within local forces, and specialists Teams such as the Paedophile On Line Investigation Team of the National Crime Squad undertake monitoring of chatrooms to detect paedophile activity as part of their activities to combat child abuse on line. The deployment of officers to this area, primarily covertly, is

undertaken as part of the operational activities of these specialist units, and it is not an issue on which guidelines have been issued to forces by government.

The International Virtual Global Task Force, launched in December 2003, is a partnership of law enforcement agencies from the UK, US, Australia, and Canada, which aims to target those who search for images of child abuse on the internet. In June it announced its intention to actively monitor chatrooms with a visible police presence where they consider paedophiles are likely to target children.

From 2000–01 to 2004–05 the policing provision for England and Wales has increased by over £2.3 billion. There are now record numbers of police officers. It is not government policy to fund the police service for individual activities they undertake, but rather for chief officers to take practical decisions on how they allocate the additional resources and manpower we have made available to them. We fully support effective intelligence led policing and welcome the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) proposals to make better use of intelligence and existing centres of expertise to help forces effectively investigate those who abuse children using the internet.

Metropolitan Police Authority

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his timetable is for the appointment of his nominee to the Metropolitan Police Authority under the terms of the Greater London Authority Act 1999; and what criteria are being used for the selection. [181565]

Ms Blears: The Home Secretary's appointee to the Metropolitan Police Authority will be in place by 8 July 2004 when the Authority holds its Annual General Meeting. Candidates were selected by fair and open competition and on the basis of their ability to become familiar with the operational issues for the Metropolitan Police and to perform an important quality assurance and value for money function on behalf of the Home Secretary.

Ministerial Red Boxes

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how Ministers use *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* private firms for mailing red boxes. [180417]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Royal Mail offers a special service for the transmission of official boxes and pouches addressed personally to, or sent on behalf of Government Ministers. Private firms are not used for mailing red boxes.

Ministerial Visits

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* car, *(b)* train, *(c)* aeroplane and *(d)* helicopter, in each of the last 10 years. [175661]

Mr. Blunkett: My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked Nick Matheson, Chief Executive of the Government Car and Despatch agency to write to the hon. Member with details of the cost of Ministerial vehicles provided to this Department.

In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers visits overseas. Copies of lists are available in the Library. These reports contain information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and in some cases will no longer be held. Information for 2003–04 will be published in due course.

Detailed information for all Ministers in respect of UK travel is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Police

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Greater Manchester Police *(a)* was for 1997, in capital and revenue terms and *(b)* is for the current financial year, in cash terms and real terms; and what the percentage change was in each year. [181757]

Ms Blears: The information is set out in the table.

	Cash (£ million)	*Percentage change*	*Real (£ million)*	*Percentage change*
Revenue				
1997–98	352.8	—	398.7	—
2004–05	468.9	32.9	445.9	11.8
Capital				
1997–98	12.0	—	13.6	—
2004–05	24.4	103.3	23.2	70.6

Note:
Real terms figures: 2002–03 = 100 (GNP deflator).
Sources:
Net revenue budget requirements: ODPM.
Capital budgets: Greater Manchester Police.

Police Remuneration

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received extending the London Weighting received by officers in the Metropolitan Police Force to officers of Essex constabulary; and if he will make a statement. [180627]

Ms Blears: We have received no representations to extend the payment of London weighting to officers of Essex Police.

Officers in Essex recruited after 1 September 1994, who do not receive a housing allowance, are paid a South East allowance of £2,000.

Re-offending

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he will measure the impact on re-offending if convicted individuals have more than one supervisor. [167522]

Paul Goggins: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) will create a system of end to end management of offenders where there is a single manager for each individual offender, whether they are in custody, serving a community sentence or a combination of both.

Suffrage Supporters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will begin the process which would lead to an unconditional free pardon for the suffrage supporters who went to prison during the campaign. [168562]

Paul Goggins: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary does not believe that it would be appropriate to use the Royal Prerogative of Mercy in these cases. Given the passage of time there would be a number of practical difficulties and in any event free pardons are designed to redress injustice and in general their use relies on innocence being established.

Although he does not feel able to recommend the use of the Royal Prerogative in these cases the Home Secretary believes that it would be appropriate for the Government to recognise and mark in some way the contribution that the women's suffrage movement made to bring about greater equality in political and public life and to the development of our democracy as we currently know it. He has therefore asked officials to look into and consider an appropriate way in which this might be achieved.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Parliamentary Communications Directorate

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee what plans the Parliamentary Communications Directorate has to speed up the procedure for logging onto the virtual private network for remote access to the Parliamentary Data and Video Network; and when he expects an improved service to be in place. [181716]

Mr. Key: The Parliamentary Communications Directorate (PCD) is currently evaluating new virtual private network (VPN) software, which may help to simplify and speed up the process of VPN log-on. PCD plans to begin a pilot of the new software with a limited number of active users before the summer recess, with a view to making decisions about implementation in the early autumn. I hope that a number of Members and their staff will participate in the pilot.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Business Start-ups

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to help people start their own business. [181885]

Jane Kennedy: Our support for people who want to start up their own business is targeted at long-term unemployed people and other disadvantaged groups. It is delivered through the New Deals and Work Based Learning for Adults (Training for Work in Scotland) by a network of start-up specialist providers, contracted by Jobcentre Plus.

This support includes an awareness session, a period of supported business planning with a business expert, and up to 26 weeks of supported 'test trading' where participants can operate their business with expert support yet still have the safety net of receiving their benefits in the form of a training allowance. In 2003, over 11,000 people were supported to 'test trade' their business through the New Deals and Work Based Learning for Adults.

We play an active role across government to ensure there is coherence in the support Government provides in promoting enterprise. We were key contributors to "A Government Action Plan for Small Business" published last year, which sets out our strategy for promoting enterprise.

We have been working closely with the Small Business Service to ensure there is a nationally available minimum standard of provision to support potential entrepreneurs, including those not eligible for Jobcentre Plus programmes. In addition, we are working in partnership with the Prince's Trust Youth Business Programme and the Small Business Service on the production of a pre-start-up leaflet that signposts potential entrepreneurs to the range of government support available, as well as a national award scheme that recognises the significant barriers long term unemployed people have overcome to become successful entrepreneurs.

Both products will be launched to coincide with Enterprise week in November. Jobcentre Plus Districts will all be involved in initiatives during Enterprise week to highlight their support for people who may be interested in exploring self employment as an option.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter to him dated 24 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. T. Cheema. [182460]

Mr. Andrew Smith: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 2 July.

Household Income

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* all households containing at least one disabled person, *(b)* single disabled people and *(c)* couples over pension age where at least one person is disabled receive 60 per cent. of median contemporary incomes after housing costs where income is calculated excluding disability living allowance and attendance allowance received. [181116]

Maria Eagle: In 2002–03, 65 per cent. of all households containing at least one disabled person, 62 per cent. of all single disabled people, and 65 per cent. of couples over pension age where at least one person is disabled received income that was at least 60 per cent. of the median income after housing costs, where household incomes exclude any disability allowance and attendance allowance received.

If disability living allowance and attendance allowance are not deducted from incomes, 74 per cent. of all households containing at least one disabled person, 70 per cent. of all single disabled people, and 77 per cent. of couples over pension age where at least one person is disabled received income that was at least 60 per cent. of the median income after housing costs.

Notes:

1. Figures are for 2002–03 the latest date for which data is available.
2. Estimates are for Great Britain and are quoted to the nearest per cent.
3. Estimates relate to the household's status at the time they were interviewed for the FRS.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts, which have been adjusted for non-response using multipurpose grossing factors that, in the case of the Family Resources Survey, control for tenure, council tax band and a number of other variables. Estimates are subject to both sampling error and to variability in non-response.
5. The income measure used is weekly net (disposable) equivalised household income (that is to say income that is adjusted to reflect the composition of the household).
6. The median income of the population is the contemporary median income. For the part of the answer were DLA/AA have been deducted, the median is the same as that used in HBAI, and therefore has not been recalculated following deduction of disability living allowance and attendance allowance. Previous analysis has shown that recalculating the median in this way has little impact of the risk of low income. This is due to the small impact DLA/AA receipt has on the location of averages in the income distribution.
7. For part *(a)* disabled persons includes both disabled adults and children. For part *(b)* single disabled people includes only adults.

Source:
Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* all adults, *(b)* single people without children, *(c)* single people with children, *(d)* couples without children and *(e)* couples with children in households under pension age containing at least one disabled person have incomes below 60 per cent. of median contemporary incomes after housing costs where income is calculated excluding disability living allowance received. [181117]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is in the table.

	Percentage who are under pension age, living in a household containing at least one disabled person, with income, minus any disability living allowance, below 60 per cent. of the median income after housing costs	*Percentage below 60 per cent. of the median with no deduction of disability allowance from incomes*
All adults under pension age	32	27
Single people without children	37	31
Single people with children	54	48
Couples with no children	23	18
Couples with children	32	28

Notes:

1. Figures are for 2002–03, the latest date for which data is available.
2. Estimates are for Great Britain and are quoted to the nearest per cent.
3. Estimates relate to the household's status at the time they were interviewed for the FRS.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts, which have been adjusted for non-response using multipurpose grossing factors that, in the case of the Family Resources Survey, control for tenure, council tax band and a number of other variables. Estimates are subject to both sampling error and to remaining variability in non-response.
5. The income measure used is weekly net (disposable) equivalised household income (that is to say income that is adjusted to reflect the composition of the household).
6. The median income of the population is the same as that used in HBAI, and therefore has not been recalculated following deduction of disability living allowance. Previous analysis has shown that recalculating the median in this way has little impact on the risk of low income. This is due to the small impact DLA receipt has on the location of averages in the income distribution.

Source:
Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Pension Protection Fund

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether charities with funded final salary pension schemes will be covered by the Pension Protection Fund. [182075]

Malcolm Wicks: The PPF will cover defined benefit and hybrid schemes except those where the benefits are effectively guaranteed. In most cases, these will either be statutory schemes (mostly unfunded schemes) or funded schemes with government guarantees.

Based on the exemptions from the minimum funding requirement, we expect the following schemes to be exempt from payment of the initial levy and the pension protection levies:

(a) an unfunded public service pension scheme;

(b) a public sector scheme providing pensions to local government schemes where there is an established crown guarantee;

(c) any scheme where a Minister of the Crown has given a full guarantee or made other arrangements to secure that assets will be sufficient to meet liabilities;

(d) a pension scheme which provides relevant benefits but is neither an approved scheme nor a relevant statutory scheme;

(e) a section 615(6) scheme (a scheme set up under trust in the UK, but relating to employment outside the UK);

(f) a scheme with less than three members;

(g) a scheme where the only benefits provided (other than money purchase benefits) are death benefits and under the provision of which no member has accrued rights (other than rights to money purchase benefits);

(h) a 'relevant lump sum retirement benefits scheme' (basically, one which only provides a non-salary-related lump sum on retirement);

(i) the scheme set up under the Salvation Army Act 1963 and

(j) the Chatsworth Settlement Estate Pension Scheme.

We also have the PPF exemption for schemes with fewer than 12 members, all of whom are directors, or connected to directors.

We anticipate that all other occupational defined benefit pension schemes and defined benefit elements of hybrid schemes will be covered by the PPF.

Pension Service

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will explain the background to the inability of the Pension Service to issue direct payment letters with the full surnames of people with long names. [182588]

Mr. Pond: An IT constraint prevents surnames in excess of 13 characters being input on to direct payment letters.

Customers with over 13 characters in their surname have their name truncated on all correspondence from the Customer Conversion Centre.

A customers conversion to direct payment is unaffected by the use of truncated surnames—it is a correspondence issue only.

Sales Training (Disabled People)

Mr. Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is *(a)* required and *(b)* provided for people who sell equipment and appliances to disabled people. [181736]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

Private companies that sell equipment and appliances to disabled people are not subject to statutory regulation, but the British Health Trades Association (BHTA), which has over 300 member companies, runs a voluntary registration scheme for sales people. Training is provided by employers and under the BHTA scheme. Registration is open to people who: are willing to be bound by the code of conduct; have three years relevant experience in the non-medicinal healthcare industry; and who can demonstrate competencies in the areas of product knowledge, basic anatomy, physiology, disability, and cultural awareness. Further information is available on the BHTA website at www.bhta.com/.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Animal Research

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many researchers funded by *(a)* the Medical Research Council and *(b)* the Biotechnology and Biological Services Research Councils grants travelled abroad to conduct research on animals in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [181069]

Ms Hewitt: Neither MRC nor BBSRC has a central record of how many grant-holders travel abroad to conduct research on animals and it would be cost-prohibitive to gather it. Both Councils have a policy that they will not provide funding for animal research overseas if it appears that it is being proposed in order to reduce costs or to bypass the high standards set in the UK.

Auction Houses

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions she has had with major auction houses or their representatives about *(a)* droit de suite and *(b)* the level of VAT on art sales. [180934]

Ms Hewitt: Discussions are currently taking place on droit de suite between officials and representatives of the art trade, but there have been no recent discussions on the level of VAT on art sales.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what studies she has made of auction houses' contribution to the UK art market. [180952]

Ms Hewitt: A study was commissioned in 2003 on the potential cost and benefit of implementing EC Directive 2001/84/EC on the Resale Right for the Benefit of an Author of an Original work of Art (Droit de Suite). This was received just before Christmas 2003 and focuses on the number and value of sales of modern and contemporary art handled by the auction houses in the 2001–02 season (August 2001 to July 2002). The data will be used in the preparation of a draft Regulatory Impact Assessment, on which comment will be invited from interested parties and the public as part of the consultation process regarding implementation of the directive.

British Exports (India)

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether British exports to India are to be used in Jaguar jets for the purpose of enabling them *(a)* to carry and *(b)* to deliver nuclear weapons. [182116]

Nigel Griffiths: All export licence applications for India are carefully assessed against the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and the Bradshaw Statement. As part of this assessment both the stated and potential end-use of the equipment is considered. The Government would not issue an export licence to India if it were assessed that the goods were to be used in contravention of the Criteria or the Statement. Exports to India for the purpose of carrying or delivering nuclear weapons would constitute a contravention and would therefore not be licensed.

Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when she will reply to the letter from the hon.

Member for Totnes dated 17 March concerning Martyn Tozer of Kingsbridge, Devon and the Corporate Social Responsibility Bill. [182208]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* I apologise that because of an administrative oversight the hon. Member did not have a prompt reply to his letter of 17 March. A reply has now been sent, and a review has been commissioned to see what lessons can be learnt to avoid such delays in future.

Door-to-door Sales

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps her Department is taking to tackle unregulated door-to-door salesmen. [182495]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) have investigated doorstep selling as a whole and published their market study report on 12 May. We are carefully considering the report and any proposed legislative changes will be the subject of thorough consultation.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when she will publish the consultation document on revised power station consent guidance listed on the Sustainable Energy Policy Network's website. [181959]

Mr. Timms: The 2003 Energy White Paper "Our energy future—creating a low carbon economy" included a commitment to review existing guidance to developers seeking consent from DTI for large power stations, setting out the steps they need to take to ensure economically viable opportunities for CHP are fully considered. The existing guidance can be found at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/leg_and_reg/consents/powerstation_eng.pdf.

The review will aim to make the guidance clearer about the information and evidence required from developers to show opportunities have been properly explored.

The Government intend to publish a consultation document before the parliamentary recess.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures her Department has introduced to ensure power stations use fuel efficiently. [181960]

Mr. Timms: The framework and operation of a market based approach to the delivery of reliable electricity supplies provides strong incentives to generators to use fuel efficiently.

Our Energy White paper published in February 2003 set out the need to make more efficient use of energy sources. In particular, the White Paper identified combined heat and power (CHP), as a way to make more efficient use of fuel.

In April the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs published "The Government's Strategy for Combined Heat and Power until 2010" setting out a framework to support the growth of CHP capacity in the UK. Measures set out in the Strategy to support that growth include reviewing the existing guidance on information required to accompany power station consent applications to ensure full consideration of all options for CHP and community heating.

The Government requires any application for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct a power station of more than 50 megawatts to demonstrate that it has explored the use of CHP and community heating.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what work has been undertaken with Ofgem in the past year to ensure administrative arrangements under the New Electricity Trading Arrangements are fully accessible to smaller generators as highlighted on the Sustainable Energy Policy Network website; and what assessment she has made of how effective these measures have been. [182009]

Mr. Timms: Both the DTI and Ofgem have been involved in a number of initiatives aimed at improving the position of smaller generators.

With regard to the Balancing and Settlement Code, Ofgem has considered and approved a number of modifications. For example, a revision of the definition of the System Buy and Sell Prices has significantly reduced the spread of imbalance prices and thus the risk to which smaller generators in particular are exposed. Modifications have also been made to National Grid Transco's charging methodology, which now allows "embedded benefits" to be paid directly to generators in certain circumstances, which again will particularly benefit smaller generators. In this area, it is primarily the role of the Balancing and Settlement Code Panel to assess the impact of measures, and for industry participants to bring forward modifications to the code if they are considered unsatisfactory.

In the context of the future British Electricity Trading and Transmission Arrangements, the DTI and Ofgem have recognised the special position of smaller generators through the provision of a discount for small transmission-connected generators in Scotland.

More generally, the Distribution Commercial Forum, which is facilitated by Ofgem, is responsible for assisting industry participants in improving the governance framework of the existing distribution connection and use of system arrangements. The Distribution Generation Working Group—jointly chaired by Ofgem and DTI—is looking at ways in which the barriers to the connection of smaller-scale generation can be removed, and their contribution to the system in terms of losses, contribution to security and other embedded benefits can be fully recognised. Both of these forums therefore play assessment roles vis-à-vis the position of smaller generators.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what her current estimates are of the levels of electricity generation by *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas, *(c)* nuclear and *(d)* renewables in (i) 2005, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2020. [182035]

Mr. Timms: Data for the year 2000 and projections for future years are shown in the following table. The table is extracted from a published working paper

"Updated UK Energy Projections", dated May 2004, and is available at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/uep.pdf.

The working paper represents work in progress and a final report is expected to be published later this year.

Table 18: Electricity Generation, TWh[18]

	2000	*2005*	*2010*	*2015*	*2020*
Coal	111.9	113	106	89	57
Oil	2.1	2	2	2	2
Gas	127.0	116	132	159	225
Nuclear	78.3	84	61	41	27
Renewables[19]	10.1	15	39	58	58
Imports	14.3	9	10	10	10
Pumped storage	2.6	3	3	3	3
Total	346.3	344	353	362	382

[18] The figures in this table relate to gross supply to the grid, plus imports of electricity. See also footnote 11 relating to coverage.
[19] The level of renewables generation in 2010 is approximately 10 per cent. of overall generation.

Footnote 11 explains that for modelling purposes, the coverage of the industry is major power producers plus all renewable generators. All other generators of electricity are included within the industrial or commercial sectors.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what her estimate is of the percentage of natural gas electricity generation in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2020 that will have to be imported. [182036]

Mr. Timms: The Department does not make estimates of gas import needs for individual sectors such as power stations. The most recent assessment of gas import needs for the whole economy can be found in the fourth report of the DTI-Ofgem Joint Energy Security of Supply working group which can be accessed at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/jess/jessreport4.pdf. This report suggests that perhaps 40 per cent. of our gas needs will be imported by 2010 and 80 per cent. or more by 2020. But the actual extent of import dependency is inevitably uncertain. In its recently published 17th report ("Gas: Liberalised Markets and Security of Supply", HL Paper 105), the House of Lords European Union Committee has asserted that the UK will be importing around 50 per cent. of its gas requirements by 2010 and around 70 per cent. in 2020.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for how many empty houses her Department is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [182149]

Ms Hewitt: My Department's administrative estate does not include any housing.

End of Life Vehicles Directive

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of regulations requiring the last owner of an end of life vehicle to deliver it to an authorised processor prior to the implementation of a scheme which will require manufacturers to make arrangements for processors to accept vehicles manufactured by them free of charge on the number of end of life vehicles being *(a)* abandoned and *(b)* deliberately set fire to. [181545]

Mr. Timms: Since the Department's Regulatory Impact Assessment of 21 June 2002, the Government have taken a number of initiatives to bear down on the problem of abandoned vehicles. The 2002 Assessment was based on ELV processing and treatment costs of £60, whereas latest estimates put these at £16–39. No updated Assessment has yet been compiled.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of *(a)* females and *(b)* males are studying science, engineering and technology based degrees; and if she will make a statement on government initiatives to increase the number of female graduates. [180064]

Ms Hewitt: In the following table are some statistics, which show that in some degrees which require Science and Maths A levels such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, more women than men are studying, and becoming qualified in these subjects. However these statistics also highlight that there is still significant female under-representation in vital SET courses such as the Physical Sciences, Engineering and IT.

Overall the number of female science, engineering and technology (SET) graduates is increasing. However, only one in every three SET graduates in 2002 were women.

More men apply for, accept and obtain higher education qualifications in SET and SET-related subjects than women but as the statistics show, the picture is very different depending on the precise nature of the subject.

The work being done in schools and further education colleges to enthuse young girls to take up these subjects is the beginning of the process to encourage girls and women to take SET degrees, especially in those areas where there is a definite gender imbalance. As part of the Government's new strategy[1], a new UK Resource Centre for Women in SET aimed at working with employers, professional bodies and individuals in SET will be launched on 16 September 2004. The Government have allocated £800,000 per annum for three years to set up and operate the new Centre and an additional £500,000 per annum of the development of a dedicated returners package. The Resource Centre will hold pump-priming funds that will be used to fund innovative or proven projects, including £200,000 separately provided by DfES to the Centre for schemes in higher education institutions to put support measures in place that aid the retention and progression of women science undergraduates into the science labour force.

[1] The Government's new strategy is outlined in full in the report published on 28 April 2003: 'A Strategy for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology'.

Percentage of students by subject group, gender, level of study and first-year marker, 2002–03

Subject area	Post-graduates		Undergraduates		First-year undergraduates	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Medicine and Dentistry	53	47	57	43	61	39
Subjects allied to medicine	72	28	85	15	86	14
Biological Sciences	62	38	63	37	62	38
Veterinary Science	54	46	74	26	74	26
Agriculture and related subjects	50	50	59	41	60	40
Physical Sciences	38	62	41	60	41	59
Mathematical Sciences	35	65	40	60	39	62
Computer Science	26	74	25	75	28	72
Engineering and Technology	18	82	14	86	14	86

Source:
HESA

Foreign Languages

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps her Department is taking to encourage the development of improved foreign language skills in British companies. [182060]

Ms Hewitt *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* My Department and the DfES are working with a range of partners including the Skills for Business Network and the Learning and Skills Councils to encourage the development of improved foreign language skills. The National Languages Strategy launched in December 2002 recognises the increasing importance in our society and the global economy of the ability to understand and communicate in other languages.

Employers have a crucial role to play in helping to implement the main aims and objectives of the National Languages Strategy by influencing young people's career choices, extending opportunities and promoting the value and importance of language learning. Employers can begin to address these issues by building on the talent within their own work force.

Support is available through bodies such as UK Trade and Investment, the British Council and the CILT/Languages NTO's internet-based Business Languages Information Services (BLIS) providing a database of language trainers, cultural consultants and translation and interpretation services.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment she has made of *(a)* the impact on export sales by companies which place low value on foreign language skills of their attitude towards such skills and *(b)* the impact of low foreign language skills among British companies on British competitiveness; and if she will make a statement. [182062]

Ms Hewitt *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* Although the DTI has not commissioned any specific research on this issue, we continue to monitor the situation for example making a point of asking established inward investors about the issues that concern them (currently they do not raise foreign language skills as such an area of concern).

Skills audits commissioned by the Regional Development Agencies show that 20 per cent. of UK companies believe that they have lost business because of lack of language and cultural skills and 25 per cent. experience problems in handling international business.

In some regions the development of Regional Languages Networks has been led by the National Centre for Languages with the support and funding of the Regional Development Agencies, UK Trade and Investment and the Learning and Skills Councils. These are business-led and designed to help ensure that the future provision of language and cultural skills meets the needs of businesses involved in international trade.

Heat Efficiency Targets

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what targets were established for the more efficient use of heat in the Government's Energy White Paper. [182038]

Mr. Timms: The Energy White Paper does not set specific targets for the more efficient use of heat. However, we can expect to see an increase in small-scale, distributed heat and electricity generation.

Space heating and hot water account for 80 per cent. of energy use in households, and over half of energy use in the service sector. The Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan, published in April 2003, sets out measures that the Government expects to deliver savings of over 12 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) by 2010, with a formal aim to achieve savings of 4.2 MtC in households by 2010. This represents savings of around 10 per cent. of total non-transport carbon emissions.

Combined heat and power (CHP) is the simultaneous generation of usable heat and power (usually electricity) in a single process. The Government's CHP Strategy, also published in April 2003, sets out a framework to support the growth of CHP capacity in the UK. The Government's target is to achieve 10GWe of Good Quality CHP electrical capacity by 2010.

Inward Investment

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry by what mechanism her Department monitors the concerns of inward investors. [182061]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* A key objective of UK Trade and Investment is to gather and monitor the views and concerns of inward investors in order to identify obstacles to overseas-owned companies growing their investments in the UK.

These views are gathered through a dialogue with investors, both with their overseas headquarters and their UK subsidiaries. I chair a quarterly meeting with

key inward investors where we explore concerns and ways that Government can help improve or resolve the issues that concern them.

UK Trade and Investment is also undertaking a survey and consultation project with existing investors to help fine tune its service to meet their likely future needs.

MG Rover Group

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what assistance the Government have provided to MG Rover Group in relation to *(a)* UK and *(b)* internationally based activities; [179317]

(2) what mechanisms have been put in place to monitor the use of public assistance provided to MG Rover Group; and if she will place in the Library all material collated by her Department on the assistance given; [179318]

(3) how much public assistance has been made available to MG Rover Group; how much of this has been drawn down; what *(a)* grant, *(b)* support scheme, *(c)* programme and *(d)* initiative provided this money; for what purposes the support was provided; and how much support was provided in each instance. [179319]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* On 17 March 2000, we committed the substantial amount of £129 million to implement the recommendations of the Rover Task Force. Some £11 million has been spent on actions which needed to be taken immediately, for example to support the automotive supply chain. A further £17 million has supported the Modernisation of the automotive supply chain and nearly £20 million has been used for Diversification, to support and encourage businesses to engage in new activity.

In addition, £22 million has been agreed to create three High Tech corridors to attract and develop more high tech and high value added businesses. We also agreed an overall sum of £2 million to kick-start initiatives in the North Staffordshire area. £10 million was made available to Advantage West Midlands to buy a strategic site in Birmingham for future industrial development. £42 million has been provided for good quality Regional Selective Assistance projects in the region and some £5 million of the £129 million total is not yet allocated to specific projects.

From the total £129 million, £49 million has been spent as at the end of March 2004. £4 million has been allocated to MG Rover as described as follows. MG Rover Group have been offered assistance in the following two areas:

A grant of up to £9 million under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 towards the cost of employee training and development, of which £4 million is from Rover Task Force funding and the balance from European funds. The company has drawn down £4.6 million to date, more than matched by training spend of the company itself.

An offer of grant of £1.057 million (awarded to a partnership of MG Rover, MIRA, Powertrain Ltd. and Pi Technology) under the Department for Transport's Ultra Low Carbon Car Challenge, of which £117,000 has been drawn down.

These grants relate to UK based activities. The normal mechanisms for monitoring assistance under the Learning and Skills Act and the Ultra Low Carbon Car Challenge are applied to these grants.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister in her Department on official departmental business. [181868]

Ms Hewitt: The DTI does not record the number of miles flown on official departmental business by its Ministers or staff. To provide the information requested would entail disproportionate cost.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department in the latest year for which figures are available. [182132]

Ms Hewitt: The estimated total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was £619 for *(a)* Ministers and £58,224 for *(b)* officials in the DTI in the 12 month period ending 31 March 2004.

Premium Rate Telephone Line Fraud

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions she has had with *(a)* ICSTIS and *(b)* BT concerning premium rate line fraud involving use of the Internet; and if she will make a statement. [181830]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* The DTI will continue the ongoing discussions with ICSTIS, OFCOM, BT and other operators throughout July to develop solutions for managing the consumer issues now, while building a strategy for limiting the potential for this type of fraud in the future.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost was to public funds of appointing and remunerating a new chairman and members to the boards of the eight English regional development agencies this year; how many chairmen and members have been appointed in total, and at what cost in remuneration; how many staff have been employed by the regional development agencies, in each of the last three years; and what the cost of remuneration was in each year. [182206]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry announced on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 14WS, in a written ministerial statement, the appointment of Dr. Bryan Jackson as the new Chair of 'emda'. Dr. Jackson will be remunerated at £49,854 for an average time commitment of two days per week. The advertising and consultancy costs of this appointment were £34,953.

Work is currently under way on this year's Board process, with 32 positions available on the eight English RDA Boards (excluding London). Those appointed will be remunerated at £7,931 for an average time

commitment of two days per month. It is estimated that the advertising and consultancy costs will be in the region of £210,000.

Since the RDAs were launched in 1999, Ministers have appointed 15 Chairs (excluding the new 'emda' Chair) and 189 Board Members. The following table provides details of the total remuneration paid to Chairs and Board members in each of the financial years to 31 March 2003 (information for 2003–04 is not yet available).

	£000
1998–99	309
1999–2000	1,120
2000–01	1,131
2001–02	1,191
2002–03	1,297

The following table gives details of the number of staff employed by each of the RDAs, and the cost in remuneration, over the three years to 2002–03 (information for 2003–04 is not yet available).

Agency	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
AWM			
Staff Employed (Number)	164	178	216
Staff Remuneration (£000)	5,346	6,603	8,995
EEDA			
Staff Employed (Number)	83	92	139
Staff Remuneration (£000)	3,125	3,992	5,245
EMDA			
Staff Employed (Number)	124	141	170
Staff Remuneration (£000)	4,120	4,660	5,384
NWDA			
Staff Employed (Number)	237	263	291
Staff Remuneration (£000)	7,587	8,489	10,596
ONE			
Staff Employed (Number)	244	240	249
Staff Remuneration (£000)	7,633	7,975	9,011
SEEDA			
Staff Employed (Number)	122	136	182
Staff Remuneration (£000)	4,509	5,571	7,928
SWRDA			
Staff Employed (Number)	182	197	227
Staff Remuneration (£000)	5,545	6,358	7,498
YF			
Staff Employed (Number)	220	226	282
Staff Remuneration (£000)	6,150	8,077	9,823

Vibration White Finger

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the services claims under the vibration white finger scheme of persons under 70 years of age will be dealt with. [181123]

Nigel Griffiths: The miners representatives and the DTI agreed that priority should be given to the over 70s.

The claims of younger miners now are being processed in order to date of claims.

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how she plans to process services claims for vibration white finger that have been submitted; and what resources will be allocated to ensure that the claims are processed without delays. [181124]

Nigel Griffiths: The VWF Services process at the Department's claims handlers IRISC involves an assessment of both submitted paper evidence and further information gathered through telephone discussions with those who currently provide a Service to the claimant. Once this is complete the claim is forwarded to Capita Health Solutions who conduct the medical and return to IRISC for offer. Deceased claims are dealt with on a tariff basis and there is no medical.

To meet the aspirational scheme end dates of all medicals completed by the end of 2006 and all claims settled in 2007 we plan to double resources at both contractors.

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many services medical assessments and service offers have been made under the vibration white finger scheme to date; how many claims have been submitted; and what procedures have been introduced to ensure that the remaining services claims are dealt with efficiently and with minimal delay to the claimant. [181125]

Nigel Griffiths: As of the end of May 2004 a total of 6,751 VWF Services medicals had been completed and 3,912 offers had been made. In total the Department had received questionnaires for 24,602 cases where a Services claim had been intimated.

To ensure that those VWF Services claims are dealt with as effectively as possible we have agreed aspirational scheme end dates with our contractors. We are planning to have completed all Services medicals by the end of 2006 and to have all claims settled during 2007. At a recent workshop we communicated these dates to solicitors, together with details of the increasing resources we are devoting to this. We urge solicitors to do the same.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Breast Cancer

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what research his Department has conducted into disparities between the incidence of breast cancer in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. [182018]

Angela Smith: The Northern Ireland rates for breast cancer are the lowest of all the countries in the UK. The following table gives the average numbers of women per year diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK between 1998–2000. The table also shows the rate for the average annual number of women, per 100,000 females of the population, diagnosed with the disease. These rates are averaged over the period 1998–2000 so that random variation/fluctuations, which may occur year-on-year, are removed.

Directly age-standardised[1] registration rates of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer by UK country, 1998–2000[2]

	Average number diagnosed per year	*Rate per 100,000 females*
United Kingdom	40,299	113.9
England	33,661	114.0
Wales	2,078	110.9
Scotland	3,615	116.6
Northern Ireland	945	107.0

[1] Using the European Standard Population.

[2] Three year averages.

Source:

Figures taken from "Registrations of cancer diagnosed in 2000, England", an Office for National Statistics publication (Series MB1 number 31).

Civil Servants (Industrial Action)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the impact of the current civil service industrial action on the competitiveness of Northern Ireland's haulage industry. [180801]

Angela Smith: The certificates of temporary exemption that are being issued for goods vehicles exempt owners and operators from the requirement to have their vehicles tested for a three month period from the date of issue. They enable vehicles to be taxed and to operate legally on the road, and should prevent any material damage to the competitiveness of Northern Ireland's haulage industry.

Comber High School/Bangor Academy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1561–62W, on Comber High School/Bangor Academy, if he will place in the Library a copy of the findings of the screening exercise carried out by the South Eastern Education and Library Board. [181876]

Mr. Gardiner: A copy has been placed in the Library.

Cory Report

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the three inquiries will be announced consequent on the Cory Report. [181143]

Mr. Paul Murphy: On 1 April I announced public inquiries into the deaths of Robert Hamill, Rosemary Nelson and Billy Wright. Work is continuing to enable the inquiries to be established as soon as possible. I will be making a statement early in July that will set out the progress that has been made.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the commencement of the public inquiries into the deaths of *(a)* Robert Hamill, *(b)* Rosemary Nelson and *(c)* Billy Wright. [180707]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Work is continuing to enable the inquiries to be established as soon as possible. I will be making a statement early in July that will set out the progress that has been made.

Cricket

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to encourage the playing of cricket at schools. [181533]

Mr. Gardiner: The Physical Education Programme of Study, while not specifying which particular sport activities should be followed, sets out a range of skills which schools should aim to develop in pupils. Schools themselves decide which games they will provide.

The Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment is currently carrying out a review of the curriculum, and PE is being considered as part of this review.

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland works closely with the NI Cricket Association and also provides funding to complement the work undertaken to promote cricket at school level.

Custody and Bail Cases (Processing Times)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of *(a)* custody and *(b)* bail cases in Northern Ireland were processed in the time limits in the last period for which figures are available. [181180]

Mr. Pearson: The Policing Plan has set the performance targets as follows:

To process 85 per cent. of custody cases within 90 days; and

To process 85 per cent. of bail cases within 110 days.

For the period from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004, 55.7 per cent. of custody cases were processed within 90 days, and 64.6 per cent. of bail cases within 110 days.

The most recent figures available are for April 2004. These show that 68.4 per cent. of custody cases and 67.7 per cent. of bail cases were processed within the timescales outlined above.

Delayed Hospital Discharges

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients currently have their discharge from hospital delayed, broken down by health trust area; what the average weekly cost of their stay in hospital is; and what the average estimated cost of a community care package for each is. [181936]

Angela Smith: The information requested is as follows.

Number of delayed discharges, by trust of residence at 31 March 2004

Board of residence/community trust of residence	*Number of delayed discharges*	*Percentage of total delayed*
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	36	8
North and West Belfast HSS Trust	34	8
South and East Belfast HSS Trust	83	19
Ulster Community and Hospitals HSS Trust	41	9
Causeway HSS Trust	31	7
Homefirst HSS Trust	111	26
Armagh and Dungannon HSS Trust	42	10
Craigavon and Banbridge HSS Trust	21	5
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	13	3
Foyle HSS Trust	15	3
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	7	2
Total	434	100

It is estimated that the average cost of delayed discharges remaining in hospital is £1,233 per person per week. It is estimated that a community care package, which includes a week of care in a nursing home, would cost £420 per person per week.

Note:

Delayed discharge information is collected only for hospitals, which provide an acute service. Delayed discharges refer to persons delayed in these hospitals while awaiting a community care package.

Endoscopes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will make a statement on the implementation by local health trusts of manufacturers' guidelines and recommendations regarding the use and cleaning of endoscopes; [181529]

(2) on what dates audits were performed by local health trusts into the safe and effective use of flexible endoscopes *(a)* between April and June and *(b)* prior to this period; [181530]

(3) what independent quality control and improvement measures are in place in hospitals in the Province regarding use of flexible endoscopic equipment; and when they were introduced. [181531]

Angela Smith: The information requested in these questions is not held centrally. The issues raised will, however, be examined as part of the forthcoming independent review of arrangements for endoscope disinfection in Northern Ireland. The review will be chaired by Dame Deirdre Hine and is expected to report in the autumn.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the *(a)* manufacturer and *(b)* model are of each endoscope used by each hospital in Northern Ireland. [181621]

Angela Smith: The Department has the relevant information in respect of flexible endoscopes only. In view of the extent of the information, it has been placed in the Library of the House.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Government have provided funding for research into measures to combat the unemployment differential between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as outlined in the Joint Declaration. [180993]

Mr. Spellar: Labour Market Dynamics research has been commissioned in line with a Joint Declaration commitment. The research examines gender, religion and disability differentials in relation to employment, unemployment and non-employment, trends over time and the main factors driving change.

The specific objectives include:

providing a description and explanation of the trends over time in differentials in employment, unemployment and non-employment in relation to gender, religion and disability;

statistically modelling the trends and outcomes for the key groups identified; and

commenting on targets set within the Department of Employment and Learning's Report on the Taskforce on Employability and Long-Term Unemployment (2002), to reduce these differentials.

The research is currently under way and is expected to report by the end of the year.

Fair Employment

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many formal complaints have been lodged with the Fair Employment Tribunal in each of the last five years; how many complaints were *(a)* rejected initially, *(b)* settled, *(c)* heard and upheld and *(d)* heard and rejected. [182086]

Mr. Gardiner: The information is in the following table.

Fair employment tribunal: cases registered each year and their position at 31 March 2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total registrations	499	561	613	481	466
Allowed after full hearing	3	5	2	2	1
Dismissed after preliminary hearing	11	15	9	7	4
Dismissed after full hearing	27	26	21	4	6
Dismissed/struck out for want of prosecution	5	18	10	3	0
Withdrawn	288	244	279	144	54
Conciliated by LRA	53	58	48	23	3
Settled between the parties	88	108	67	14	3
Settled between the parties—terms attached	2	2	0	1	0
Stayed	12	5	10	2	1
Live cases	10	80	167	281	400

Health Service Finance

Mr. Hume: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures are in place to ensure that nurses' salaries claimed by general practices are paid at the salary levels claimed from the health boards. [181573]

Angela Smith: With the implementation of the new GMS contract with effect from 1 April 2004, the funding to meet the costs of all staff employed by general practices, including nursing staff, is no longer claimed back from Health and Social Services Boards. Instead this is provided by way of a global sum direct to each practice and it is then a matter for the individual practices to decide how that funding should be spent on staffing. The amount allocated to each practice is calculated using a workload allocation formula which is based on the practice population, weighted for factors that influence relative patient needs and other costs.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time taken for an application for assistance to be processed by Invest Northern Ireland is. [180682]

Mr. Gardiner: The time taken to process applications for assistance varies across the range of Invest NI's programmes, with the length of the appraisal process being dictated by both the way each specific programme operates and the complexity of the project put forward by a client.

In terms of Invest NI's main programmes, the current processing target for larger business development projects is 60 days. The processing target for less complex development cases is 30 days. These timescales relate to "controllable" time i.e. periods when an application is being dealt with by Invest NI and not awaiting further information from a client.

The target timescales are being met in the majority of cases, although there are exceptions where, for example, the case is particularly complex or the negotiations prolonged.

Pat Finucane Centre

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether public funds have been used to support the Pat Finucane Centre. [178227]

Mr. Spellar: The Community Relations Council has provided public funds totalling £10,376 in the last five years to the Pat Finucane Centre in respect of a number of specific projects.

Police (Best Value Regime)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the Police Service of Northern Ireland of administering the Best Value regime is in this financial year. [181174]

Mr. Pearson: A budget totalling £663,616 has been set aside to cover the costs of Best Value reviews in 2004–05.

Social Housing (Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road)

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether an assessment will be made of the impact on biodiversity action plans and protected landscapes of the application for planning permission for social housing for lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road (Ref. S/2004/0114/F and S/2004/0116F); [180994]

(2) whether the application for planning permission for social housing on lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road (Ref. S/2004/0114/F and S/2004/0116F) complies with the planning policy statement of the Planning Service in respect of the protection and enhancement of open space; [180995]

(3) how and under what process the application for planning permission for social housing on lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road (Ref. S/2004/0114F and S/2004/0116F) lands were declared surplus to the Department of Environment's requirements; and under what process Habinteg Housing Association was selected as the potential developer of social housing on these sites; [180996]

(4) what provision has been made to ensure that the present wildlife areas are maintained and enhanced in line with Department of Environment policy with reference to application for planning permission for social housing on lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road (Ref. S/2004/0114F and S/2004/0116F); [180997]

(5) whether an assessment will be made on access to the Ulster Way of the application for planning permission for social housing on lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road (Ref. S/2004/0114F and S/2004/0116F); [180998]

(6) if he will outline the level of community consultation undertaken by the Department of the Environment to change the zoning of the lands in respect of the application for planning permission for social housing on lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Old Golf Course Road (Ref. S/2004/0114F and S/2004/0116F). [180999]

Angela Smith: The land referred to belongs to the Department of the Environment (DOE). It was purchased in 1987 to facilitate a Roads Scheme. On completion of the scheme a considerable area was undeveloped and surplus to requirements. The Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) took the lands for a social development project, but their remit changed and the project did not proceed. At the time of devolution, it was agreed that DOE would retain the land and the Environment and Heritage Service was assigned responsibility for it while BRO continued to act for the Department in taking forward the disposal. In line with procedures for the disposal of surplus land, expressions of interest were sought. The application from Habinteg Housing Association, supported by the Department for Social Development, was accepted subject to planning permission being secured.

The proposal, comprising two planning applications that were both accompanied by an Environmental Statement, is still under consideration by Planning Service. The land in question is not classified as a protected landscape. It is currently identified as open space in Belfast Urban Area Plan (2001) and the Lisburn Area Plan (2001). However, although Planning Policy Statement 8 affords protection to existing or proposed open space, the policy does also allow for the loss of open space in specific circumstances. Issues such as open space, biodiversity, wildlife and the Ulster Way will all be carefully considered as part of the planning process, which includes consultation with relevant bodies.

Wild Animals Order

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will set out the timescale for the implementation of the licensing and inspection system envisaged in the draft Dangerous Wild Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 2004. [182082]

Angela Smith: Subject to the approval of both Houses of Parliament, it is expected that the Order will be considered by the Privy Council on 27 July. Certain enabling provisions will come into operation seven days after the Order is made.

However, the substantive provisions, including those provisions making it an offence to keep a dangerous wild animal without a licence, will be brought into operation by way of a commencement order, to be made by the Department of the Environment. This is considered necessary, in the interests of public safety, to ensure that all operational arrangements required for the effective operation and enforcement of the legislation are in place and to allow for the preparation of guidance and standards for prospective licence holders. I expect it to take three months for this work to be completed and the licence provisions brought into operation. Thereafter, existing owners will have a further period of 90 days to apply for a licence, during which time they may continue to keep the animal.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 July 2004

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliament Square

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Leader of the House if he will ensure that the interests of right hon. and hon. Members are taken into account before any change in *(a)* traffic flows and *(b)* accessibility takes place in or near Parliament Square. [182397]

Mr. Hain: If proposals are made which affect access to the Palace of Westminster, I shall certainly make sure that the views of Members are represented.

PRIME MINISTER

Allocation of Time

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what he estimates the relative ratio of time spent by him on *(a)* climate change and *(b)* terrorism-related issues was in the last 12 months. [182862]

The Prime Minister: I spend my time on a wide range of domestic and international issues, including climate change and terrorism.

Gibraltar

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has spoken to the Chief Minister of Gibraltar over the past 12 months; and what the main issues discussed were. [182811]

The Prime Minister: I have not spoken with the Chief Minister for Gibraltar recently. However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, met with the Chief Minister during his visit to London between 25 and 27 May this year.

Kyoto

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether it remains UK Government policy to seek to persuade the US Government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. [182860]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member, to the answers I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich North (Dr. Gibson) during my evidence to the Liaison Committee on 6 July.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aarhus Convention

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on how the civil justice system in England meets the requirements of Article 9(4) of the Aarhus Convention that contracting parties must provide review procedures with adequate and effective remedies, including injunctive relief as appropriate. [180619]

Mr. Morley: The requirements of Article 9(4) of the Convention are reflected in the civil justice system of England and Wales, and in particular the current law governing standing to seek judicial review of administrative action in environmental cases, where adequate and effective remedies, including injunctive relief in appropriate cases, are available.

Pennington Point, Sidmouth

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with officials concerning increasing the funding available for work to Pennington Point in Sidmouth. [182050]

Mr. Morley: The Government are committed to the maintenance and improvement of necessary flood and coastal defences. Total Government funding on flood and coastal defence is projected to rise to £550 million in 2005–06. There have been no recent discussions with officials concerning increasing the funding available for work to Pennington Point in Sidmouth.

I understand that East Devon district council plan to undertake a protection scheme at Pennington Point/ Salcombe Hill but that no formal application has yet been made for approval under the Coast Protection Act 1949 as planning permission is still to be granted . To qualify for Defra grant aid, proposals must meet essential criteria and achieve the relevant "priority score".

Radon (Cornwall)

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department have had with Kerrier district council regarding radon levels in the council's area; [181712]

(2) what plans she has to tackle the effects of radon in the Kerrier district council area of Cornwall. [181711]

Mr. Morley: Neither I nor the Secretary of State have had discussions with Kerrier district council regarding radon levels in the council's area. However, Department officials met with council representatives on 4 July 2003 to discuss the development of a local action plan to roll out Defra's radon programme in its district. Representatives from the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) and the Building Research Establishment (BRE) attended that meeting as the organisations engaged by the Department to support the council on implementing the action plan. I wrote to my hon. Friend on 12 September 2003 about the commencement of the plan, and members of the Department, NRPB and BRE have been working closely with Kerrier district council to help to deliver the action plan since then.

Kerrier district council's main actions, supported by the Defra programme, are designed to raise awareness about radon and, in particular, to encourage remedial

action in the community. These have included the offer of free radon tests and retests sent to over 31,000 householders living in homes with a greater than 5 per cent. probability of radon levels being at or above the 'Action Level' of 200 becquerels per cubic metre of air (Bq m^{-3}). The council is using a mobile exhibition to visit communities in the district in order to raise awareness and offer advice about radon—its health effects and remedial measures. Familiarisation seminars have also been held specifically for council staff, professionals in the housing sector, and local builders and builders merchants. In addition, a series of advice workshops have been run for householders needing to take action to reduce radon levels, to provide advice and guidance on the type of radon remediation that might be most appropriate for their homes. Both NRPB and BRE have been closely involved in helping the council to carry out these actions.

I am aware of the dwellings in Kerrier recently discovered, through Defra's programme, to have very high radon levels. The Department, Kerrier district council, NRPB and BRE have been liaising to ensure that the owners of these properties have full access to the support available under Defra's programme, enabling prompt action to be taken to remedy the problem.

Once all the results from the radon tests are available, officials will consider the need for another meeting with Kerrier district council, NRPB and BRE to review the work that has been undertaken so far and discuss what further action might reasonably be taken in the light of the results that have been obtained.

Agricultural Subsidy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum agricultural subsidy paid to one farming concern was in 2003–04. [180125]

Alun Michael: The Rural Payments Agency is unable to release individual payment details. However, it can confirm that during the 2002–03 European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund year[1], the most recent year for which figures are available, 11 farming concerns each received total subsidy payments in excess of one million pounds.

[1] 16 October 2002 to 15 October 2003.

Air Transport White Paper

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department of the Sustainable Development Commission's report on the Air Transport White Paper. [181945]

Mr. Morley: The Sustainable Development Commission acts as a critical friend to Government in appraising their performance in delivering sustainable development. Its report on the Government's Air Transport White Paper is a useful contribution to the debate about aviation's role in a sustainable society, and we will consider it carefully with the Department for Transport.

Both the Energy and Air Transport White Papers recognise that the aviation industry must take action to take account of, and where appropriate reduce, its climate change impacts. The Government are open to dialogue with the Commission, along with other stakeholders, on the methods to achieve that.

Business Grants (Rural Areas)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total grants *(a)* are available for and *(b)* have been claimed by businesses in rural areas in each year since 2001, what the grants were for; and whether they were from (i) UK and (ii) EU sources. [177143]

Alun Michael: This information is not available in the requested format. Business support grants are usually open to all businesses that meet the criteria of the scheme whether they be rural or urban. The data on the take-up of the generic business support grants are not broken down into rural and urban. Information on grant schemes run by Defra is available in the Department's annual reports, on its website, and in other publications.

Commercial Orchards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many commercial orchards there were in Lancashire in each of the last five years, broken down by type; and what quantity of fruit they produced in each year. [180427]

Alun Michael: Data on the area of commercial orchards grown are collected in the annual June Census of Agricultural and Horticulture, which is available in the House of Commons Library. The provisional results for the England 2004 June Census will be published on 16 September 2004. As a small number of holdings in Lancashire have commercial orchards, we cannot publish figures for Lancashire as it would lead to disclosure of information about specific holdings.

Correspondence

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for North Wiltshire of 29 March and 4 May on behalf of Chew Valley Hide and Skin Company. [180312]

Alun Michael: The Department has no record of receiving any letters from the hon. Member dated 29 March. A reply to the letter of 4 May will be sent to the hon. Member shortly.

Environment Agency

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review against the Environment Agency were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords in each year between 1997 and 2003 by *(a)* individuals, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* corporate entities. [181422]

Mr. Morley: None.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review against the Environment Agency were given leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal in each year between 1997 and 2003 by *(a)* individuals, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* corporate entities. [181423]

Mr. Morley: No such applications were given leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal between 1997 and 2000 or in 2003.

In 2001 the application of only one individual was given leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. No other such applications were given leave to appeal.

In 2002 the application of only one corporate entity was given leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. No other such applications were given leave to appeal.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review against the Environment Agency were granted permission to proceed in the High Court in each year between 1997 and 2003 by *(a)* individuals, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* corporate entities. [181424]

Mr. Morley: The following table lists the number of such applications that were granted permission to proceed to the High Court, in the categories requested:

Applications made by	*1997*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Individuals	0	1	3	3	0
Non-governmental organisations	1	0	0	0	1
Corporate entities	1	5	1	2	1

No such applications were made to the High Court in 1998 or 1999.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review made against the Environment Agency in the High Court in each year between 1997 and 2003 *(a)* were successful and *(b)* resulted in an order for costs being made against the Environment Agency; and what costs were awarded in each case. [181425]

Mr. Morley: The following table lists the number of such applications that were made between 1997 and 2003 that were successful, and gives details of any costs awarded in each case:

Applications	*1997*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Number of successful cases	1	1	0	1	1
Costs awarded	[1]—	£50,000	—	£25,000	£21,000

[1] No costs order made

No such applications were made to the High Court in 1998 or 1999.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many judicial reviews brought against the Environment Agency between 1997 and 2003 in the High Court *(a)* were unsuccessful and *(b)* resulted in an order for costs being made against the applicant; and what costs were awarded in each case. [181426]

Mr. Morley: The following table lists the number of such cases brought between 1997 and 2003 that were unsuccessful, and details any resulting order for costs that were made against the applicant in each case.

Applications	*1997*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Number of unsuccessful cases	1	5	4	2	1
Costs awarded (£)	Costs unknown	(i) No costs (ii) No costs (iii) 43,000 (iv) 25,723 (v) 48,000	(i) No costs (ii) No costs (iii) 32,000 (iv) 115,000	(i) No costs (ii) 58,000	10,000

No such applications were made to the High Court in 1998 or 1999.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review made against the Environment Agency in the House of Lords in each year between 1997 and 2003 *(a)* were successful and *(b)* resulted in an order for costs being made against the Environment Agency; and what costs were awarded in each case. [181427]

Mr. Morley: None.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review made against the Environment Agency in the Court of Appeal in each year between 1997 and 2003 *(a)* were successful and *(b)* resulted in an order for costs being made against the Environment Agency; and what costs were awarded in each case. [181428]

Mr. Morley: There was one such application that was successful in 2002. £25,000 costs were awarded in this case.

There were no other such applications that were successful between 1997 and 2003.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many judicial reviews brought against the Environment Agency between 1997 and 2003 in the House of Lords *(a)* were unsuccessful and *(b)* resulted in an order for costs being made against the applicant; and what costs were awarded in each case. [181430]

Mr. Morley: None.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for judicial review were made against the Environment Agency in the High Court in each year between 1997 and 2003 by *(a)* individuals, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* corporate entities. [181431]

Mr. Morley: The following table lists the number of such applications that were made between 1997 and 2003, in the categories requested.

Applications made by	*1997*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Individuals	0	1	3	4	2
Non-governmental organisations	0	0	0	0	1
Corporate entities	2	8	1	4	1

No such applications were made to the High Court in 1998 or 1999.

Chicken Farms

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional requirements will be imposed on chicken farms by integrated pollution prevention and control requirements which are not covered by *(a)* an assured chicken production scheme and *(b)* best available techniques. [180374]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency does not anticipate that there will be many chicken farms that will be required to go beyond the Assured Chicken Production scheme (ACP) and Best Available Techniques (BAT). Many of the BAT for the sector has been adopted by the ACP, but the latter does not embrace all of the former. Only where a significantly higher level of environmental protection is required would techniques which go beyond BAT be necessary. Furthermore, it would first have to be demonstrated that those techniques could achieve the required level of protection. Greater environmental protection might be necessary in the case of a farm which is located close to a Special Protected Area of a Special Area of Conservation.

International Renewable Energy Conference

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the outcome of the International Renewable Energy Conference held in Bonn from 1 to 4 June. [181129]

Mr. Morley: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State led the UK delegation to the Bonn Renewables Conference, which was attended by over 3,000 delegates, from 154 countries, whom of around 60 were Ministers. My hon. Friend the Minister for Energy, E-commerce and Postal Services also attended. The Prime Minister made a pre-recorded video address to the opening session of the ministerial segment of the Conference.

Overall, the Conference successfully built on the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg and heightened international attention on the crucial role of renewable energy in addressing climate change and providing access to energy in the developing world.

The Conference had three key outcomes: a Political Declaration, a set of Policy Recommendations and an International Action Programme.

The Political Declaration adopted by acclamation at the close of the Conference sets out common political objectives for promoting the role of renewable energies. Reflecting the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Declaration restates the importance of the multi-lateral process to promote both renewables and energy efficiency.

The Policy Recommendations for Renewable Energies offers a menu of practical advice on how to develop policies to promote the development of the market for renewable energies in both the developing and developed worlds.

The International Action Programme is a collection of, to date, over 160 voluntary commitments on the part of governments, business, NGOs and other stakeholders to concrete action to deliver increased use of renewable energy. The UK submitted a series of actions to the programme, including the extension of the renewables obligation to 2015, renewable obligation certificates, the European Marine Energy Test Centre, round two of the off-shore wind farm development and the Energy Efficiency Action Plan. As one of the founders of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), we also submitted the REEEP Future Work Programme as an important contribution to the Action Programme.

The full text of all three documents can be found at: www.renewables2004.de

The adoption of an effective framework to follow up these outcomes and ensure that the commitments made in the International Action Programme are delivered will be crucial. The Political Declaration envisages "an appropriate arrangement" for measuring progress and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder "global policy network", taking into account the work already being undertaken by existing partnerships in order to promote a sharing of experience in the development and application of renewable energy.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership launched last year by the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Trade and Industry will have a key role to play in this Policy Network. The Partnership, with partners from governments, business, finance and civil society across the globe, aims to share knowledge and experience in order to spread best practice and overcome barriers to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Partnership has grown considerably over the last year and generated a considerable amount of interest at Bonn, with the Governments of Senegal, Yemen and Australia all signing up as Partners at, or shortly after, the Conference.

Ivory

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the proposed ivory stockpile sales from *(a)* South Africa, *(b)* Botswana and *(c)* Namibia. [182249]

Mr. Morley: The Government will continue to insist that the very strict conditions governing the proposed one-off sales of ivory are met in full before any trade is allowed to proceed. In particular we want to be assured that the potential importing country/countries are able to regulate effectively their domestic ivory markets and that the one-off sales will not lead to an upsurge in poaching.

Landfill

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to minimise the amount of surplus food that is sent by supermarkets for disposal in landfill sites; and what her latest estimate is of the volume of food sent by supermarkets for *(a)* disposal in landfill sites and *(b)* incineration. [180384]

Mr. Morley: The Government are working with the food and drink industry to produce a joint strategy to improve the industry's economic, environmental and social performance. The new strategy will tackle waste as one of its issues together with litter, food miles, transport and energy use.

As well as the strategy the Government, through the waste minimisation programme being run by the Waste and Resources Action Programme, are working with retailers to reduce waste through better design of products.

We do not hold estimates on the volume of surplus food sent by supermarkets for disposal in landfill sites, incineration or other permitted disposal routes.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment *(a)* she and *(b)* the Environment Agency has made of the (i) impact and (ii) financial impact of its draft guidance on (A) monitoring landfill gas engine emissions, (B) the management of landfill gas, (C) monitoring trace components in landfill gas and (D) gas treatment technologies for landfill gas engines on generating renewable energy from landfill gas; and what assessment has been made of the impact of each on (1) the financial viability of operating a landfill site and (2) small and medium enterprises generating renewable energy from landfill gas. [181219]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency commissioned an independent impact assessment of costs and benefits associated with the introduction of its landfill gas guidance. The impact assessment was developed with input from the landfill industry and has been published on the Environment Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

The impact assessment demonstrated that the environmental benefits outweigh the costs, even when conservative assumptions were made on potential environmental benefits. The Landfill Directive requires that the full cost of landfilling be provided for within gate fees, and the Agency has publicly stated on a number of occasions that the cost of landfill needs to increase to reflect the real costs. Implementation of the Agency's landfill gas guidance will necessarily form part of these costs.

The Agency holds regular liaison meetings with the relevant trade associations specifically to keep under review the implementation and consequences of its landfill gas guidance. This liaison group has agreed to review the guidance formally, two years after the date of issue: this will provide a timely opportunity to verify the predictions contained in the impact assessment.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency will publish its final guidance on *(a)* monitoring landfill gas engine emissions, *(b)* the management of landfill gas, *(c)* monitoring trace components in landfill gas and *(d)* gas treatment technologies for landfill gas engines. [181222]

Mr. Morley: I understand that the Environment Agency intends to publish these four guidance documents in August this year.

Nitrogen Dioxide Target

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department plans to reach the 40 micrograms per cubic metre target set out in the 2003 Air Quality Strategy for the yearly average amount of nitrogen dioxide in the air. [181697]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* Our current assessment is that most areas in England will meet the Air Quality Strategy objective for nitrogen dioxide of 40 micrograms per cubic metre annual mean by the target date of 31 December 2005. We are looking at possible further measures as part of the current reviews of the Air Quality Strategy, the 10-Year Plan for Transport and Climate Change Programme.

Pharmaceutical Industry

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will take steps to ensure that the pharmaceutical industry implements the Environment Agency's recommendation to review its products with reference to low level residues that are likely to cause harm to the aquatic environment and human health; [180622]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure that the pharmaceutical industry implements the Environment Agency's recommendation to demonstrate that low level pharmaceutical residues are unlikely to cause harm to the aquatic environment and human health. [180623]

Alun Michael: The Environment Agency's position statement on human pharmaceuticals includes a number of actions for the pharmaceutical industry, including work to determine if exposures to low levels of pharmaceuticals over long periods of time are having an impact on aquatic life. These actions are being pursued through constructive dialogue between the agency and the industry and the intended development of an industry led work programme.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to determine the *(a)* levels of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine residues in UK aquatic environments and *(b)* impact on the environment and human health. [180624]

Alun Michael: During 2002–03 the Environment Agency carried out a desk-based ranking exercise on the 500 pharmaceuticals most commonly used in England and Wales in order to rank them in terms of environmental significance. This exercise included fluoxetine. Norfluoxtine was not included as it is a breakdown product of fluoxetine and the study concentrated only on parent compounds. A short-targeted monitoring programme was then set up for 12 pharmaceuticals. Fluoxetine was not included within the programme because it was established that no analytical method suitable for use on environmental samples existed and that development of one would be difficult.

The Environment Agency's position statement on human pharmaceuticals includes a number of actions for the pharmaceutical industry including an action on the pharmaceutical industry to do more on the analytical methods for environmental monitoring. These actions are being pursued through constructive dialogue between the Agency and the industry and the intended development of an industry-led work programme.

Radioactive Water Vapour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department will take to ensure that the incident of radioactive water vapour emitted into the atmosphere on 9 June at Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station does not harm the environment. [180302]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* A small, unplanned release of radioactivity from the Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station occurred on 9 June as a result of a leak from a pump. It is not expected that the annual limits for this site for the radionuclides involved will be breached as a result of this incident. The Environment Agency has kept the releases to the environment under close review and an initial assessment indicates that the environmental impact has not been significant. The Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive are continuing to investigate the cause of the incident and are considering what further action, if any, may be necessary.

Recycling

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the latest figures on recycling referred to by the Minister of State for the Environment on Newsnight on Tuesday 15 June. [180946]

Mr. Morley: The figures referred to were the initial results of the Municipal Waste Management Survey 2002–03 which were published on the Defra website on 28 April 2004. These are the latest figures on recycling and composting performance in England, and can be accessed through the following link:
http://defraweb/news/2004/040429a.htm

Full results from the Municipal Waste Management Survey 2002–03 will be published at the end of July 2004.

Rural Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent Countryside Agency report on homelessness in rural areas, with particular reference to discussions she has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on steps to increase the supply of *(a)* affordable and *(b)* social housing. [180389]

Alun Michael: The Government have welcomed the Countryside Agency report showing that for many, rural England is a good place to live and giving useful pointers on the scale of rural housing need. The State of the Countryside Report has contributed greatly to our understanding of rural areas in England.

I have had a number of meetings with my ministerial colleagues in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the issue of rural housing. In recent months we have also taken part in open discussions including the Rural Affairs Forum for England, regional conferences on housing, a seminar organised by the Rural Group of Labour MPs and the Labour Party Spring Conference.

The Housing Corporation's rural target is to provide 3,500 affordable homes over 2004–06 in settlements below 3,000 people. This follows the Rural White Paper commitment to approve 1,600 homes in small settlements by 2003–04—double that in 2000–01.

In 2002–03, the Housing Corporation approved spending on 1,579 homes in small rural settlements (exceeding their target of 1,300) with local authorities funding 515 homes. In 2003–04 the Housing Corporation and local authorities approved a further 4,988 homes in larger rural areas and market towns.

We are also improving the ways in which homelessness is prevented and have provided rural authorities with over £4 million in each of the last three years to support homelessness prevention strategies.

Waste Management

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what action the Government are taking in developing waste to energy schemes in the UK; [181788]

(2) what the Government's policy is on the usage of gasification techniques to convert waste into energy. [181789]

(3) what plans she has to make a distinction in regulation between older technologies used for incineration of waste and newer, more environmentally friendly alternatives, with particular reference to *(a)* gasification and *(b)* pyrolysis. [181790]

Mr. Morley: The Government have no plans for any number of energy from waste facilities to be built. The choice of waste management options is a matter for individual Local Authorities to decide according to their local circumstances and needs as set out in their Waste Local Plans and waste management strategies.

We are aware of the new processes that are becoming available, such as pyrolysis, gasification and anaerobic digestion and the potential benefits for the environment and human health. Defra's Waste Implementation Programme is directing some of its funding to developing demonstration units in this country for a range of new technologies, which may include energy recovery processes.

Meanwhile the processes named above do qualify as eligible renewable sources for the purposes of the Renewable Obligation Order 2002.

The regulation of waste management processes is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Processes involving the thermal treatment of wastes for the production of energy are regulated under the recently adopted Directive 2000/76/EC on the Incineration of Waste. Pyrolysis and gasification involving the production of energy are specifically included within the scope of this Directive and there is no latitude to differentiate between technologies.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether environmental legislation treats incineration in the UK in the same way as more environmentally friendly chemical and thermo processes of *(a)* gasification and *(b)* pyrolysis. [181791]

Mr. Morley: Directive 2000/76/EC on the incineration of waste applies to incineration plant new or substantially changed since 28 December 2002, and to pre-existing incineration plant from 28 December 2005. The Directive has been transposed into UK law by Regulations and Directions.

"Incineration plant" in the Directive and hence the UK transposition of it means

'any stationary or mobile technical unit and equipment dedicated to the thermal treatment of wastes with or without recovery of the combustion heat generated. This includes the incineration by oxidation of waste as well as other thermal treatment processes such as pyrolysis, gasification or plasma processes in so far as the substances resulting from the treatment are subsequently incinerated'

WALES

Dentistry

12. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with National Assembly for Wales Secretaries on funding for dentistry in Wales. [181924]

14. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had since 9 June with National Assembly for Wales Secretaries on funding for dentistry in Wales. [181926]

Mr. Touhig: I discussed dentistry in Wales with the Assembly Health Minister on 16 June, at one of our regular bilateral meetings.

Departmental Websites

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the total cost of his Department's websites was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [178788]

Mr. Touhig: Service provision for the Wales Office website for the year beginning 1 September 2003 cost a total of £5,000—costing £1,000 for provision of hardware and service, £1,000 for provision of connectivity and £3,000 for provision of service support.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182240]

Mr. Touhig: None.

Milford Haven

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the proposals by Petroplus to upgrade the liquefied natural gas handling facility at Milford Haven on the wider Haven area, in terms of *(a)* commercial and *(b)* private development; and if he will make a statement. [179860]

Mr. Touhig: The Wales Office has no role in the assessment of such projects. Economic, social and environmental impacts will have been considered during planning process.

Ministerial Visits

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the travel costs incurred by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* each Minister within his Department, for each of the last 10 years. [175653]

Mr. Touhig: In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and in some cases will no longer be held. Information for 2003–04 will be published in due course.

My hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked Nick Matheson, Chief Executive of the Government Car and Despatch Agency to write to the right hon. Member with details of the cost of ministerial vehicles provided to this Department.

The Wales Office was established on 1 July 1999, and I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Mr. Flight) on 17 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 478, for prior year information on travel costs.

Excluding the costs of overseas visits and the Government Car Service, which are detailed elsewhere, the estimated travel costs incurred by the Wales Office in 2003, for both Ministers and officials, were £125,085.

Information relating to individual Ministers for this period is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

NHS Funding

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales Secretaries on the effects of funding for the NHS in Wales on reducing waiting times. [181925]

Mr. Hain: I regularly meet the Assembly First Minister and the health service in Wales is one of the topics that we frequently discuss.

Outdoor Activity Industry (Safety)

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met the Health and Safety Executive to discuss safety in the outdoor activity industry in Wales. [181918]

Mr. Touhig: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with a range of Government agencies. Although we have not recently met the Health and Safety Executive to discuss this issue, I do recognise the important role HSE plays in promoting best practice and educating the outdoor activities sector on health and safety matters.

Policing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Secretary of the National Assembly for Wales on the devolution to the Assembly of further powers with regard to policing. [181922]

Mr. Hain: The Government have no plans to devolve policing powers to the National Assembly.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Fire Brigades Union

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he last met the executive or representatives of the Fire Brigades Union. [178464]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister last met representatives of the Fire Brigades Union executive on 20 March 2003.

Housing

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much central Government funding has been *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on housing in each financial year since 1999–2000. [172881]

Keith Hill: Central Government provides capital support for housing expenditure by local authorities and registered social landlords. Data on the total amounts spent and the mainstream funding made available by central Government since 1999/2000 are set out as follows. Funding for day-to-day costs of providing housing are largely met from rents and are not included in the figures.

Capital (£ million)

	Local authorities[1]		*RSLs*	
	Spend[2, 3]	*CG funds*	*Spend*	*CG funds*
1999–2000	2,418	1,405	966	1,127
2000–01	2,778	2,103	1,117	1,142
2001–02	3,129	2,569	1,186	1,320
2002–03	3,425	2,671	1,486	1,565
2003–04 (RSL provisional)	3,760	2,719	2,013	2,006
2004–05 (LA estimate)	3,723	2,891	—	—

[1] Covers capital funding provided through housing annual capital guidelines, the Major Repairs Allowance (from 2001–02), the Capital Receipts Initiative (1999–2000 only), the Arms Length Management Initiative and for Disabled Facilities grants.
[2] The local authorities spend figure is for total spend (i.e. from local authorities own resources and central Government funding). We only collect data in this format and are unable to disaggregate the two.
[3] ACG/SCER is not ring fenced so local authorities are free to spend this resource on any capital project.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to increase the provision of affordable housing in locations where housing prices are high in the north-west. [182487]

Keith Hill: Identifying land for affordable housing is a task for local authorities, which are best placed to assess local needs. Government's advice to local authorities on this issue is currently under review.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many civil servants and what percentage of the total Civil Service workforce in her Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180173]

Ms Hewitt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1292–93W.

Corporate Identity Theft

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures she is planning to introduce to calculate the costs to UK *(a)* companies and *(b)* consumers of corporate identity theft. [181014]

Jacqui Smith: No measures are currently planned to calculate the costs to UK companies or consumers of corporate identity theft.

Home Working

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) when the Government intend to ratify the International Labour Organisation document on homework; [182418]

(2) what action is being taken to ensure that home workers have access to the same statutory rights as other employees. [182432]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are keen to ensure all workers, including home workers, have appropriate rights and protections. We have introduced new legislation for fair piece rates for home workers, to take effect this October, thereby addressing problems over access to the national minimum wage; and the Working Time Regulations apply to all workers. The Employment Relations Bill also contains provisions extending the coverage of trade union rights to all workers. More broadly, the Government are aware that some home workers are not aware of employment rights they already enjoy, and we are providing funding to the National Group on Home Working, to help to raise awareness among home workers of their rights, and support and advise them in asserting their rights. The measures that we have already taken bring the UK closer to the equal treatment principles articulated in the ILO Convention on Home Work.

Internal Market for Electricity Directive

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when she expects to comply with Article 23/47 of the European Directive on the Internal Market for Electricity Directive 2003/56/EC. [181679]

Jacqui Smith: The Department is of the view that Great Britain already complies with Articles 23(4) and 23(7), but is currently considering what further measures are required to implement Articles 23(5) and 23(6), with which we are currently partially compliant.

The Department published a consultation document on compliance with the whole Directive on 9 February 2004, and in the light of responses received we will issue a second consultation document in mid-July that will set out how we intend to ensure full compliance with Articles 23(5) and 23(6). Once we have considered the responses, we will then make any necessary changes to current arrangements. We estimate that we will be in full compliance in October.

Respondents to our first consultation document also requested clarification of how Great Britain complied with Article 23(4). We will provide this in our second consultation document.

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Department agreed that third parties could charge claimants additionally to the sums paid out to them by her Department under the coal claims handling agreement; and if she will place correspondence in the Library. [180289]

Nigel Griffiths: I am advised that at no time has the Department agreed that third parties can charge additional sums.

National Minimum Wage

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if she will make a statement on what sanctions there are to deal with employers found to be paying below the national minimum wage; [182416]

(2) if she will impose fines on employers found to be paying below the national minimum wage. [182417]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The great majority (around 95 per cent.) of minimum wage cases are solved at present without the need for any formal enforcement action. In tackling the minority (5 per cent.) of more difficult cases, compliance officers may first serve an enforcement notice which requires the employer to start paying the minimum wage and make good any arrears of pay. In most of these cases, the employer then pays the arrears due. But in the small number of cases where an employer ignores the enforcement notice, the officer may then serve a penalty notice. The penalty notice imposes a financial penalty on the employer of twice the adult rate of the minimum wage (currently £9 per hour) for each worker named in the enforcement notice from when it was issued.

Refusal or wilful neglect to pay the minimum wage is a criminal offence, with fines of up to a maximum of £5,000 for each offence.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken to protect home workers from being paid below the national minimum wage. [182431]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In March 2004 the Government introduced the National Minimum Wage Regulations 1999 (Amendment) Regulations 2004. These Regulations come into effect in October 2004 and require employers to pay all output workers, including home workers, the minimum wage for every hour they work, or pay a fair piece rate that allows an average worker to earn the minimum wage. From April 2005 employers will have to increase the fair piece rate by a factor of 1.2, so at that point an average output worker will be able to earn 120 per cent. of the minimum wage.

We believe the new system will be more easily understood—helping employers to be clear what they must pay and home workers to understand and claim their right to the minimum wage.

Small Business Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Small Business Service has so far spent on its new website. [180723]

Nigel Griffiths: The new Businesslink.gov customer-facing website recently launched by the Small Business Service is an integral part of the cross-departmental Business.gov programme. The total cost in 2003–04 on the full development of this programme including the Businesslink.gov portal was £14.2 million.

State Aid Programme

Mr. Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement on the future of the State Aid Programme. [179941]

Jacqui Smith: The EU state aid rules are intended to prevent payments that unduly distort competition in the Single Market. The Government support an effective state aid regime and are committed to the conclusions agreed at the Lisbon and Barcelona European Councils for less and better-targeted state aid. An effective state aid regime helps create a level playing field for business across the EU. And greater competition between businesses leads to lower prices for consumers.

At the same time it is important that the Government can pursue their objectives of creating a business-friendly environment, raising skills levels and enhancing our science and technology base, so that we improve prosperity in all regions of the UK. While many business support measures do not constitute state aid at all, it is important that the state aid regime is sufficiently flexible to enable us to support economic development by tackling the causes of economic under-performance.

The Government are therefore pursuing a broad state aid reform agenda. This includes, for example, encouraging the Commission to reform their procedures so that less distorting aids, intended to correct market failures and economic underperformance, can be granted more simply. The Commission's new proposals for a "fast track" approval route for aid which has a limited effect on the market derives directly from pressure applied by the UK for a more modernised and flexible state aid system. Many of the instruments under which State aid may be approved are due to be reassessed and, if necessary, revised by the European Commission over the next three years (e.g. the "horizontal" rules on aid for SMEs, Research and Development, risk and venture capital, environmental protection, training and employment creation) and the Government will be ensuring that the UK's views are taken into account by the Commission.

In particular, the European Commission has recently issued proposals to amend the guidelines governing regional aid (which define assisted areas and aid intensities allowed within them) after 2006. I made a statement to the House on the Commission's proposals for regional aid reform on 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 19–20WS. As I noted in that statement, investment aid is only one way in which the Government work with business in the regions; most business support schemes do not depend on the Regional Aid Guidelines. In addition, the "horizontal" guidelines will continue to allow aid to be granted anywhere post-2006. Regional aid nevertheless remains an important tool and the Government therefore want to ensure that under the new Regional Aid Guidelines, regional aid can still be granted in the areas where it is most needed to help address regional disparities and local deprivation. The present proposals from the Commission do not deliver this effectively as they do not adequately allow for disparities within regions, given that poor areas exist side by side with rich areas. I announced that the Government were issuing a consultation document seeking the views of all interested parties on the Commission's proposals. The consultation document is available on the DTI's website at www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/stateaid.pdf or www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/stateaid.pdf.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Charter Schools Programme

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what evaluation he has made of the charter schools programme in the United States and of whether the model could be applied to England; and if he will make a statement. [181949]

Mr. Charles Clarke: There has been no formal evaluation of the charter school programme carried out by my Department, although two of my Ministers have recently paid visits.

We keep abreast of evaluations carried out by research institutions and have looked at a number of schooling models from other countries, including charter schools in the United States, which has helped to inform our thinking when considering school reform in England.

Carers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children he estimates act as carers. [181104]

Margaret Hodge: The 2001 Census recorded a total of 149,942 young carers aged 17 and under (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) who have caring responsibilities for another family member who is either unwell (including mental as well as physical illness) or disabled.

Early Intervention Project

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the Early Intervention project; [181171]

(2) on what basis his Department has rejected the Early Intervention project as a model for separated parents' access to children. [181172]

Margaret Hodge: During the past year my Department has looked at a number of other jurisdictions' models for resolving conflict in cases of disputed contact between separated or divorced parents and their children. These included the "Florida" or "Early Interventions" approach from the United States. This model provides both parents with a court-approved regulated pattern of contact with their children, following divorce or separation.

The Government are aware there are concerns about effective support for court ordered contact arrangements. We announced the "Family Resolutions Pilot Project" in March this year as one of the steps we are taking to tackle this. The pilot is designed to test a range of measures—parents in group discussion, raising parents' awareness of their own parenting skills and co-operative discussions between ex-partners—in helping parents reach agreement about contact with their children, after divorce or separation. It will run over one year from September in three areas—Brighton, Sunderland and Inner London.

This is a genuine pilot with no in-built assumption about what works. However it will be implemented in the context of the law in England and Wales (Children Act 1989) which has the interests of the child, rather than the rights of parents, as the paramount consideration. Therefore, we could not have adopted the "Florida" or "Early Interventions" model. The project will emphasise the key principle of parents continuing to work together in the best interest of their children, even if the adult relationship has broken down.

We are also providing an additional £3.5 million for child contact centres from 2003–04 to 2005–06, including 14 new supervised contact centres. Through the introduction from January 2005 of new "harm" forms, judges can address domestic violence allegations at the start of contact cases. We will be publishing this summer proposals for consultation about improving compliance with court ordered contact and providing better support for parents in determining appropriate contact arrangements.

School Exclusions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children have been excluded from school for *(a)* six to 12, *(b)* 12 to 18, *(c)* 18 to 24 and *(d)* in excess of 24 months. [180341]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* This information is not collected centrally. Although we collect data on the number of exclusions, we do not collect any information on the length of time excluded pupils are out of school prior to reintegration. Local education authorities are committed to providing full-time education, not necessarily at school, to all permanently excluded pupils. Currently all but two LEAs are meeting this commitment.

TRANSPORT

EU Accession States (Driving Offences)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether criminal prosecution can be brought against persons from the new EU member states who drive without *(a)* a licence, *(b)* insurance and *(c)* due care and attention if the person being prosecuted has no fixed address in the United Kingdom. [181247]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The legislation on these motoring offences applies to persons from new EU member states as to other drivers. They can therefore be prosecuted for contravention of the legislation. We are working to address the practical problems if they choose to leave the UK.

Air Travel (Financial Protection)

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to provide better financial protection for travellers on all types of air travel originating in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [182366]

Mr. McNulty: The Civil Aviation Authority, the body responsible for the financial protection of people purchasing air travel packages, is shortly to provide advice to the Government on the extension of financial protection to all types of air travel originating in the UK.

Air Travel Trust Fund

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish primary legislation to raise a new levy to replenish the Air Travel Trust Fund. [182394]

Mr. McNulty: The Government will publish a Bill to raise a new levy as soon as parliamentary time permits.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to restructure the Air Travel Trust Fund. [182396]

Mr. McNulty: We have no plans to restructure the Air Travel Trust Fund.

Bus Lanes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of whether all bus lanes in England and Wales meet the criteria laid down in his Department's guidelines; when he last undertook an audit of bus lanes to ensure that they comply with those guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [181769]

Dr. Howells: The Department's published guidance on the design and implementation of bus lanes is contained in the Local Transport Note 1/97, "Keeping Buses Moving", and in a resource pack developed by the Bus Partnership Forum in 2003, "Bus Priority—The Way Ahead". The guidance does not contain specific criteria that have to be met by individual bus lanes. It is for local authorities, in consultation with all interested parties, to decide where and in what form bus lanes will be appropriate as part of their local transport plans. The Department does not carry out audits of those decisions. Policy on bus lanes in Wales is a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

Caravans (M5)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Highways Agency's plans to restrict caravans to the inside lane of the M5 motorway south of Bristol on bank holidays. [182374]

Mr. Jamieson: The M5 is a vital link to the south-west for tourists but long queues on summer weekends and bank holidays are normal and have been for some years.

These are caused by a short steep hill west of Bristol, known locally as Naish Hill. The permanent solution to this problem is a climbing lane, for which a contract has been awarded and is due to be completed by summer 2006.

In the meantime, I have asked the Highways Agency to consider interim measures that could help relieve the present problems for all road users on the M5. The most effective way of reducing the congestion is for people to plan their journeys to avoid the peak times of Friday evening and Saturday morning and early afternoon. To encourage this, the Highways Agency will be advising vehicles towing trailers to stay in the inside lane of the M5 for the short length of Naish Hill during peak times. This will be introduced as a trial this summer and if successful, implemented for bank holiday and other weekends when heavy traffic is anticipated.

The Highways Agency will be monitoring the trial closely to judge whether it has been a success.

Congestion Charge

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with the Mayor of London the possibility of suspending the congestion charge on days when industrial action on the buses or railways affects people travelling into Greater London. [182398]

Dr. Howells: The London congestion charging scheme is the responsibility of the Mayor.

Transport for London's proposals to counter the effects of any industrial action are based on the measures adopted on previous occasions, namely:

to work with all public transport service providers to ensure best use is made of available resources;

to ensure that details of alternative walking options are readily available to those arriving at London termini by National Rail services, to avoid swamping bus and taxi services with short distance riders;

to introduce supplementary river services between Tower Pier and Westminster/Waterloo piers during peak periods, taking account of funding issues, and availability of suitable vessels;

providing and updating information via the media and existing websites on journey options for those intending to travel on days when industrial action is due to take place; and

to liaise with other public transport operators whose services have recently been affected by strike action, to identify any improvement to the range of options relating to alternative service provision.

Final decisions on proposed measures are taken once notification has been received of the dates and duration of any strike action.

Freight Facilities Grant

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much freight facilities grant was paid in each year since 2001–02; and how much is planned to be paid in each of the next three financial years *(a)* at current prices and *(b)* at outturn prices, broken down by organisations in receipt of such grants. [180877]

Mr. McNulty: Yearly payments of Freight Facility Grants (FFG) by the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) since 2001–02 are presented in outturn and 2003–04 prices in the table. Payments by organisation are shown in the SRA's Annual Report, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The SRA's FFG scheme is currently suspended and no estimates have been made of future payments.

£ million

	Constant prices (2003–04 as base year)	*Outturn price)*
2001–02	34.7	32.7
2002–03	28.3	27.6
2003–04	14.4	14.4

Past and projected FFG payments by the Department for Transport for water-borne freight in England and Wales, based on current commitments, are given below. The higher figures for 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 reflect payments to two exceptional capital projects.

£ million

	Constant prices (2003–04 as base year)	*Outturn prices*
2001–02	6.4	6.0
2002–03	19.6	19.1
2003–04	8.1	8.1
2004–05	8.7	8.9
2005–06	2.0	2.1

Expenditure plans for 2005–06 and beyond will be established following the current spending review.

Market Research

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what market and opinion research was carried out by his Department, agencies and non-departmental public bodies since June 2001 broken down by *(a)* focus group research, *(b)* quantitative surveys and *(c)* other market research surveys; and when and where the results of each were published; [180838]

(2) how much his Department spent on opinion research in each financial year from 2001–02. [180839]

Mr. McNulty: A list of market and opinion research undertaken by the Department, agencies and non-departmental public bodies is provided in a table, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House. These projects cover the period since the Department was formed in May 2002.

In 2002–03 the Department spent around £433,000 and in 2003–04 around £457,000 on regular quantitative surveys of opinions. In addition, the Department also undertakes research of a more ad hoc nature, including qualitative and quantitative research, and the table provides information on the costs of those projects.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the means-tested benefits available through the Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182571]

Mr. McNulty: There are no such benefits available through the Department for Transport.

Railways

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to change the regulatory role of the Health and Safety Executive in respect of the railway industry; and if he will make a statement. [182325]

Mr. McNulty: The rail review is continuing to look at the regulation of safety. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport said in his statement to the House on 19 January, the Government will publish their proposals in the summer.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to re-establish the linking of the Swanage railway line to the national network; and if he will make a statement. [182343]

Mr. McNulty: The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) approved a scheme for Rail Passenger Partnership (RPP) Funding in 2001, subject to finalisation of a project plan and safety case. The sponsors subsequently failed to satisfy Her Majesty's Rail Inspectorate (HMRI) on the safety case.

Although the RPP fund was suspended last year the sponsors have continued to work on a revised scheme, in the event that there will be a mechanism, through which it can be progressed at a later stage.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what record is kept of the total length in minutes of service delays on Britain's railways; and what plans his Department has to change the method of recording and reporting delays and cancellations. [180864]

Mr. McNulty: When a train is late, the rail industry record the number of minutes it is late at various monitoring points along its journey and at the final destination. These delay minutes do not equate to the minutes of delay from a passengers point of view, as delay minutes can be accumulated along the journey but the train may make up time and still arrive at its final destination on time. For this reason performance is measured and published using the Public Performance Measure (PPM). PPM records whether a train arrives at its final destination within 5 minutes of its timetabled arrival time (10 minutes for long distance operators), cancellations are also counted as late and recorded. There are no plans to change this method of recording and reporting performance.

ADVOCATE-GENERAL

Sewel Motions

Mr. Lazarowicz: To ask the Advocate-General if she will list the date and subject matter of each Sewel motion passed by the Scottish Parliament since it was established, stating the Bill or Act, if any, of this Parliament to which the motion referred. [181802]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The date on which each Sewel motion was approved by the Scottish Parliament and the Bill or Act of this Parliament to which each refers are listed in the following table:

Table of Sewel motions approved by the Scottish Parliament since it was established

Bill	*Date approved*
Food Standards[1]	23 June 1999
Financial Services and Markets[1]	23 June 1999
Electronic Communications[1]	23 June 1999
Limited Liability Partnerships[1]	23 June 1999
Sea Fishing Grants (Charges)	8 December 1999
Representation of the People	13 January 2000
Sexual Offences (Amdt)	19 January 2000
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums (1)	9 March 2000
Regulation of Investigatory Powers	6 April 2000
Learning and Skills	18 May 2000
Race Relations (Amdt)	25 May 2000
Insolvency	1 June 2000
Care Standards	22 June 2000
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums (2)	6 July 2000
Government Resources and Accounts	6 July 2000
Criminal Justice and Courts Service	5 October 2000
Health and Social Care Modernisation	17 January 2001
Tobacco Advertising and Promotion	17 January 2001
International Criminal Court	18 January 2001
Outworking	31 January 2001
Criminal Justice and Police	7 February 2001
International Development	8 March 2001
Culture and Recreation	8 March 2001
Armed Forces	29 March 2001
Adoption and Children (1)	4 April 2001
Adoption and Children (2)	24 October 2001
Proceeds of Crime	24 October 2001
Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security	15 November 2001
NHS Reform and Health Care Profession	22 November 2001
Adoption and Children (3)	30 January 2002
Police Reform	30 January 2002
Enterprise	17 April 2002
Private Hire Vehicles (Carriage of Guide Dogs etc.) (PMB)	19 June 2002
Police Reform (2)	27 June 2002
Extradition	21 November 2002
Waste and Emissions Trading	28 November 2002
Criminal Justice (1)	5 December 2002
Crime (International Co-operation)	5 December 2002
Local Government	6 February 2003
Sexual Offences	20 March 2003
Railways and Transport Safety	20 March 2003
Health and Social Care (Community Health & Standards)	19 June 2003
Fireworks	26 June 2003
Legal Deposit Libraries	11 September 2003
Criminal Justice (2)	9 October 2003
Planning and Compulsory Purchase	20 November 2003
Health Protection Agency	29 January 2004
Energy	4 February 2004
Gender Recognition	5 February 2004
Higher Education	12 February 2004
Asylum and Immigration (Treatment for Claimants)	12 February 2004
Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise)	4 March 2004
Civil Contingencies	4 March 2004
Justice (Northern Ireland)	18 March 2004
Civil Partnership	3 June 2004

[1] Approval of Westminster legislation by the Scottish Parliament before it assumed its full powers on 1 July.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cosmetic Surgery

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has held with Ofcom about standards of advertising for cosmetic surgery products; and if she will make a statement. [182362]

Estelle Morris: Ofcom has a responsibility only in relation to broadcast advertising. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has held no discussions with Ofcom regarding broadcast advertising of cosmetic surgery products. It is for Ofcom to ensure that there is an appropriate standards code for the regulation of broadcast advertising and that it is targeted and proportionate.

Departmental Surveys

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what surveys of public perceptions of her Department and of its areas of responsibility have taken place over the last 12 months; what the *(a)* title and *(b)* nature of these surveys was; what the findings of each survey were; where these findings have been published; what the cost of such surveys was; and if she will make a statement and place copies of the surveys in the Library. [176946]

Mr. Caborn: Details of public opinion research on attitudes to the Department or the policies or services for which the Department is responsible for the last financial year are shown in the table. I am arranging for copies of all the surveys to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, except those marked *.

Title	*Year*	*Purpose*	*Findings*	*Published*	*Cost inc. of VAT unless otherwise stated (£)*
Making Heritage Count	October 2003	The study was a nationwide survey of public attitudes towards heritage, which included more detailed research into the attitudes of different social groups in three diverse parts of the country—London, Bradford and Cornwall. The study included quantitative survey methods and qualitative focus group techniques	72 per cent. agreed that more should be done to recognise the contribution of different communities to our heritage 74 per cent. agreed that restoring older buildings could play a part in reviving neighbourhoods 29 per cent. of people from ethnic minorities said they had visited a historic building or garden in the last 12 months compared to the national average of 40 per cent.people from ethnic minorities were more likely than others to say that 'more information' would encourage them to visit heritage sites more often The focus groups provided a wide range of opinions and views on the value of heritage, and participants were invited to take photographs of the places in their local area that they counted as part of their 'heritage'	Yes, Heritage Counts 2003 www.heritage counts.org.uk. Copies have also been placed in the House Library	62,627.50
Annual Survey of "Visitors to EH properties" *	October 2003	To monitor visitor profiles and visitor satisfaction	Findings—internal for commercial use	Not in the public domain	25–30,000
Annual EH "Members' Survey" *	September 2003	To monitor member satisfaction levels, motivations for joining and profiling members	Findings—internal for commercial use	Not in the public domain	10–15,000
Qualitative Research to Inform the Preparation of the BBC Review 2004	2004	Qualitative Research as part of initial consultation on the BBC Charter review	Our findings will be reflected in a DCMS paper to be published in the summer. The individual report will also be published in full on the dedicated Charter Review website	No, be published in summer 2004, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon practicable	[1]88, 360
A report on Deliberative Activity to support the DCMS Review of the BBC's Royal Charter	2004	Deliberative Research as part of initial consultation on the BBC Charter review	Our findings will be reflected in a DCMS paper to be published in the summer. The individual report will also be published in full on the dedicated Charter Review website	No, to be published in summer 2004, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon practicable	[1]83,010
'Your BBC, Your Say' Consultations with children and young people about the BBC	2004	Four seminars for children and young people, in London and Omagh, to inform our consultation	Our findings will be reflected in a DCMS paper to be published in the summer. The individual report will also be published in full on the dedicated Charter Review website	No, be published in summer 2004, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon practicable	[1]19,195
Annual Survey of Visitors to the Royal Parks 2003	2003–04	The survey covers a variety of topics but aims mainly to assess visitor satisfaction with the cleanliness and overall quality of the parks	In relation to the Quality and Cleanliness key targets, for which the target was to score a minimum of 85 per cent. in each park, the survey results were as follows: Quality scores ranged from 92 per cent. in Greenwich Park to 81 per cent. in Green Park. Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens and Bushy Park just failed to meet the target, each scoring 84 per cent. Regent's, Richmond and St. James's Parks scored between 85 per cent. and	Yes, February 2004, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon practicable. A copy can also be found at www.royalparks .gov.uk	[1]33,480

Title	Year	Purpose	Findings	Published	Cost inc. of VAT unless otherwise stated (£)
			Cleanliness scores ranged from 84 per cent. in Regent's Park to 97 per cent. in Greenwich Park. Regent's was the only park to miss the target, its score clearly affected by the on-going sports development works. Most parks scored around 88 per cent.		
Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys 2003–04	2003–04	All English local authorities are statutorily required to undertake Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) surveys on a three-yearly basis to collect data for satisfaction performance indicators. The methodology and timetable are prescribed by ODPM. Cultural information is collected from two of the five BVPI surveys: *(a)* The General Household Survey; *(b)* The Public Library User Survey (PLUS)	ODPM will be publishing the topline results (aggregated to national and regional levels) of the General Household Survey on 30 June 2004. Audited results from all five surveys will be published in autumn 2004. The PLUS survey collects data on a broader basis than just BVPIs. Information drawn from these results appear in the CIPFA Public Library Statistics (Actuals), which are published annually in the summer	Yes, the topline results of the General Household survey will be published on the ODPM website (www.odpm.gov.uk) on 30 June 2004	The General Household Survey covers a wide range of issues. It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of the cultural section of the survey. The PLUS survey is commissioned and paid for by individual local authorities. The cost can therefore vary significantly due to the size of the authority and the type of survey they commission
Gambling 2004	January 2004	To explore participation in, and attitudes towards, gambling	The survey showed that since 1999 participation in most forms of gambling had fallen, that most people were "neither favourably nor unfavourably" disposed towards most forms of gambling and that a majority considered present regulation of most forms of gambling to be "about right"	Yes, in early April 2004, the full tables (114 pages) of results were posted on the DCMS website along with a technical paper, a copy will be placed in the Library of the Hose as soon as practicable	[1]10,875
Sports Coaching in the UK	2003–04	The main aim behind this study was to help those involved in developing sports coaching in the UK better understand the current state of the profession	The provision of detailed information on the number of coaches and the opinions of those involved in coaching will help inform decision makers over the forthcoming years and set a benchmark against which change can be measured	No, to be published in autumn 2004, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon practicable	213,000

[1] Excluding VAT

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for how many empty houses her Department is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [182148]

Mr. Caborn: The DCMS estate does not include any empty houses.

Men's Magazines

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it her policy to subject men's magazines which distribute DVDs with an age-related classification to a similar classification requirement; and if she will make a statement. [182525]

Estelle Morris: Under the Video Recordings Act 1984, it is an offence to supply or offer to supply a DVD to a person below the age specified in its classification. I therefore see no need to subject men's magazines to additional classification requirements.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* her Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181343]

Mr. Caborn: I will place the information relating to this Department in the Libraries of both Houses. Reviews of pay systems in non-departmental public bodies are not undertaken centrally but, rather, are a matter for individual bodies.

PFI/PPP Contracts

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many contracts have been let by her Department in each financial year since

2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst & Young for advising her Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182261]

Mr. Caborn: None of the named consultancies has been awarded any private finance initiative or public private partnership contracts in any of the last three years.

Tourism

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* overseas tourists and *(b)* domestic tourists have visited London in each year since 1992. [182534]

Mr. Caborn: The available statistics for the number of visits to London by overseas and domestic tourists since 1992 are shown in the table. Statistics are only available on visits which included a stay of at least one night.

Million

	Visits to London by staying:	
	(a) Overseas tourists	*(b) Domestic tourists*[1]
1992	9.2	—
1993	9.6	—
1994	10.4	—
1995	11.9	—
1996	12.3	—
1997	12.3	—
1998	12.3	—
1999	13.2	—
2000	13.1	18.5
2001	11.5	16.9
2002	11.6	16.1
2003	11.8	Not yet available

[1] Regional data from the UK Tourism Survey are only available back to the start of 2000 due to a significant change in the survey methodology in 1999.

Sources:

1. International Passenger Survey.
2. UK Tourism Survey.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Websites

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total cost of his Department's websites was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [178791]

Mrs. McGuire: The cost of maintaining the websites for the Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate-General in 2003–04 was £764. The Friends of Scotland website was transferred to the Scottish Executive on 1 July 2003.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases against his Department and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [181466]

Mrs. McGuire: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date no cases involving the office have been brought to an employment tribunal.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems and *(b)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181353]

Mrs. McGuire: The staff of the Scotland Office were included in the equal pay review completed by the Scottish Executive in April 2004. A summary of the main findings, together with a note of the action which will be taken to ensure that the pay system is free from discrimination, will be issued to staff shortly. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Renewable Energy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Department of Trade and Industry about renewable energy provision in Scotland. [180338]

Mrs. McGuire: The development of renewable energy in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Executive. However, both the Scottish Executive and the Government place renewables at the heart of energy policy and the Scotland Office has had regular discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry on the subject of renewable energy in Scotland.

A Government amendment to the Energy Bill in the House of Lords provides a power to give assistance to renewable generators connecting in remote and peripheral areas.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

PFI/PPP Contracts

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many contracts have been let by the Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst & Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182268]

Mr. Lammy: From 1 April 2001, my Department and its predecessors have let contracts with these accountancy firms for advice on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts under a framework agreement as follows: *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers (2); *(b)* Deloitte and Touche (none); *(c)* KPMG (-1); and *(d)* Ernst & Young (-3).

The breakdown of fees paid to each for the relevant years is as follows:

£

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
PricewaterhouseCoopers	357,456	101,425	0
Deloitte and Touche	0	0	0
KPMG	46,289	50,168	13,733
Ernst & Young	161,042	115,885	105,148

Regional Assembly Referendums

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence his Department has had since 10 June with the Electoral Commission concerning the regional assembly referendums; and if he will place copies of such correspondence in the Library. [182349]

Mr. Leslie: Officials from the Department for Constitutional Affairs attended a meeting on 28 June 2004 between the Electoral Commission and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as part of a regular series of meetings to discuss regional assembly referendums. No further meetings have taken place bilaterally between the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Electoral Commission on this issue. There has been no correspondence between the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Electoral Commission on this issue.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Electricity Prices

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the impact that the building of the North West gas pipeline will have on domestic electricity prices to customers in Northern Ireland. [182090]

Mr. Gardiner: As part of the consultation on the introduction of the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, an assessment was made of the impact of expanding the gas network in Northern Ireland, which comprises the North West and South North pipelines. The effect of postalisation on the average domestic electricity bill was estimated to be an increase of 0.6 per cent., equivalent to around £1.80 per annum.

Means-Tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will list the means-tested benefits available through his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182595]

Mr. Spellar: The income-related or means-tested benefits available to people in Northern Ireland are:

(a) in 1997—income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit, family credit and disability working allowance;

(b) in 2004—income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, state pension credit and housing benefit.

Police Service

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budgetary provision is for the Police Service for 2004–05; what the expenditure by the Police Service has been so far in the current financial year; what his estimate is of the likely end-of-year financial out-turn; and if he will make a statement. [181179]

Mr. Pearson: The overall approved budgetary provision for the PSNI is £734.8 million, being £706.8 million revenue and £28 million capital. For the two-month period to the end of May 2004, actual spend was £118.3 million against a budget of £124 million.

It is too early in the financial year to estimate the end of year out-turn, but the PSNI is planning to keep within its budgetary provision. A key factor is the public order situation during the summer months and the potential impact on overtime costs. This and other factors will be monitored as the year progresses.

Road Policing

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* mobile traffic police units and *(b)* permanent speed cameras there are in each district command unit in Northern Ireland. [179953]

Mr. Pearson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The PSNI currently have eight mobile speed detection cameras. These are a regional resource and are deployed at identified sites where there is a history of injury collisions and evidence of speeding across all District Command Units.

(b) The PSNI currently have four fixed safety cameras, all of which are located in Belfast District Command Unit at the following sites:

Saintfield Road

Newtownards Road

Antrim Road

Springfield Road.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what NATO's future plans are for Afghanistan; and when the increased forces will be deployed. [181941]

Mr. Ingram: The NATO summit in Istanbul confirmed the Alliance's plans to expand the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) across Afghanistan. This is already under way—we transferred control over the United Kingdom-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in North-West Afghanistan and their support forces, from the coalition to the ISAF on 1 July 2004. New German and Dutch PRTs are also to deploy in the near future. In addition, NATO has undertaken to deploy a quick reaction force of up to a thousand troops. Further troops will be put on high readiness to move into theatre if required.

Army Training Establishments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his ministerial colleagues have read the report by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Haes OBE, Army Training and Recruitment Agency, Duty of Care and Supervision Report 98–01, into the regime at Army initial training establishments. [182582]

Mr. Caplin: A number of reports, including the Haes report, relate to the care of trainees at Army initial training establishments. Ministers have been briefed on the content of these reports.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the members of the chain of command who have studied the Haes Army Training and Recruitment Agency Duty of Care and Suspension Report 98–01; how many of the report's recommendations have been implemented; when they were implemented; and if he will make a statement. [182583]

Mr. Caplin: The Haes report was widely circulated within the Army Training and Recruitment Agency (ATRA) and Army headquarters. It was not directly a vehicle for action, though many of the issues raised (including recruit to instructor ratios and the time lag that may occur between initial and trade training) were taken up by subsequent work.

Harrier GR7 Aircraft

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier GR7 aircraft undergoing HMP3 block 1A programme will be repaired at BAE Warton. [180648]

Mr. Ingram: Eleven Harrier GR7 aircraft in total.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether Royal Navy personnel have a sufficient level of competence to work on Harrier GR7 aircraft up to the standard required by the RAF. [181260]

Mr. Ingram: RN personnel are trained to the same high standards as those in the RAF and have to achieve a certificate of competency before being allowed to work, or supervise work, on any aircraft type.

RN personnel employed on Harrier GR7 Squadrons are required to pass the same qualification courses as their RAF colleagues.

Iran

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement on the Shatt Al Arab incident, of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 12–13WS, if he will publish the text of representations made to the Iranian Government about the seizure and treatment of British service personnel. [182465]

Mr. Hoon: The details of such representations are confidential between Governments. I set out the nature of the representations in my statement of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 12–13WS.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement on the Shatt Al Arab incident, of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 12–13WS, what his latest assessment is of the accuracy of the claim by British servicemen that they were seized by the Iranians when outside Iranian territorial waters. [182466]

Mr. Hoon: Our latest assessment remains that which I set out to the House by written statement on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 12–13WS. Our inquiries would be greatly assisted by the return of an intact Global Positioning System (GPS).

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement on the Shatt Al Arab incident, of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 12–13WS, what the medical reasons associated with the incident are which caused one seized serviceman to be returned to the United Kingdom. [182468]

Mr. Hoon: Individuals' medical details are a private matter and are confidential.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether in any case under investigation by the Royal Military Police in Iraq the Royal Military Police was involved in the activity under investigation; and if he will make a statement. [179412]

Mr. Ingram: A number of cases under investigation in Iraq involve the Royal Military Police but mainly as victims of crime, including two cases where a total of nine RMP soldiers were killed. Three cases involving the injury of Iraqis by RMP soldiers during operational incidents were investigated but no evidence of crime was found in each case.

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, of 18 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 887W, to the right hon. Member for Holborn and St. Pancras (Mr. Dobson) and the hon. Member for Tooting (Tom Cox), on Iraq, what the cost to the Ministry of Defence of operations in Iraq has been in this financial year. [181735]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence, in common with other Government Departments, publishes expenditure data on an annual basis in its Resource Accounts following audit by the National Audit Office. Audited figures for the cost of operations in Iraq in this financial year will be published in the MOD's Resource Accounts in 2005. (Figures for 2003–04 will be published this September.) It is too early to provide any estimate for the total costs that will be incurred this year, but we will ask the House to vote the necessary funds in Supplementary Estimates in due course.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 30 June to Question 158865, on Iraqi bodies, what the names were of the Iraqis for whom requests were made for exhumation; and what the date of the request was in each case. [182359]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 5 July 2004]*: The names of the Iraqis for whom exhumation requests were made

are shown as follows along with the date of the request and whether the request to exhume was granted.

	Request made	*Request granted*
Ahmed Jabber Kareem	28 May 2003	Yes
Abdul Al Jubba Mousa Ali	18 June 2003	No
Nadhem Abdullah	16 July 2003 to 17 December 2003	No/no
G. G. H. D. Roomi	22 January 2004	Yes
Ather Khalaf Mohammed	8 February 2004	Yes

Investigating Officers have sought exhumations to assist with their inquiries on six occasions. Where the families have refused to give permission exhumations have not been performed, as UK armed forces have respected local culture and religious beliefs, even though this has hampered some investigations.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the document issued to service personnel announcing the ban on the use of hoods for Iraqi prisoners. [172994]

Mr. Hoon: An amended Standard Operating Instruction on the Policy for Apprehending, Handling and Processing Detainees and Internees was issued on 30 September 2003. The following section of the document contains the relevant information.

a. Apprehended individuals are to be treated at all times fairly, humanely and with respect for his or her personal dignity;

b. Apprehended individuals are to be protected from danger and the elements;

c. Apprehended individuals are not to be kept in direct sunlight for long periods;

d. Medical care is to be provided if required;

e. Food and water are to be provided as necessary, having regard to any national, ethnic or religious dietary requirements;

f. Physical and mental torture, corporal punishment, humiliating or degrading treatment, or the threat of such, is prohibited;

g. The use of hooding and stress positions are prohibited;

h. Females are to be segregated from males;

i. Juveniles (under 15) are to be segregated from other apprehended individuals unless to do so would impose solitary confinement on the individual; and

j. It is a command responsibility to ensure that all apprehended individuals are treated in accordance with these principles.

Corporal Rees

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the result was of the investigation conducted by the Land Accident Investigation Team and the Health and Safety Executive following the death of Corporal Thomas Rees on 23 May 2003; and what the principal recommendations of the board of inquiry were. [176022]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 20 October 2003, *Official Report*, column 371W. Inquiries into the death of Corporal Rees are continuing and it would be inappropriate to comment until they are complete.

Plastic Baton Rounds

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Service personnel serving in Iraq have been trained in the use of plastic baton rounds. [176090]

Mr. Ingram: Before deployment to Operation Telic all major units are subject to pre-deployment training and undergo a special weapons course, which includes training in the use of plastic baton rounds. From this training, further training is given in Iraq, as required. It is therefore not possible to give a precise figure on numbers of personnel who have been trained in the use of plastic baton rounds. Only those trained in the use of the baton rounds are permitted to use them on operations.

Porton Down

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will give compensation to service personnel who say that they volunteered to take part in experiments at the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down when they believed that they were taking part in research to find a cure for the common cold; and if he will make a statement. [182252]

Mr. Caplin: Service personnel who suffered loss or injury as a result of negligence by the Ministry of Defence prior to May 1987 are prevented from pursuing claims for compensation from the Ministry of Defence by Section 10 of The Crown Proceedings Act 1947. Therefore any claims received from Porton Down veterans would be considered on the basis of whether or not the Ministry of Defence has a legal liability to pay compensation.

Compensation in the form of a War Pension is however, available to all former members of HM armed forces suffering from Service attributable to illness or injury. War Pensions are non-discretionary, not means tested and are made on a no-fault, tax free and retrospective basis.

RAF Cottesmore

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel are serving at RAF Cottesmore. [180641]

Mr. Ingram: As at 1 June 2004, 96 Royal Navy personnel were serving at RAF Cottesmore plus one junior rating on full time Reserve Service.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the premature voluntary release rate at RAF Cottesmore has changed since the relocation of the Harrier work from Defence Aviation Repair Agency, RAF St. Athan. [180642]

Mr. Ingram: No Harrier work has yet transferred from DARA, St. Athan to RAF Cottesmore.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many additional RAF personnel have been employed at RAF Cottesmore since the Harrier work was relocated from Defence Aviation Repair Agency, RAF St Athan. [180643]

Mr. Ingram: None. No Harrier work has yet transferred from DARA, St Athan to RAF Cottesmore.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what improvement there has been in fleet equivalent extension since the relocation of all Harrier work to RAF Cottesmore from Defence Aviation Repair Agency, RAF St. Athan; and whether the servicing backlog has been reduced. [180645]

Mr. Ingram: Harrier engineering work, currently carried out at DARA, RAF St. Athan, will not commence at RAF Cottesmore until November 2004.

The Harrier servicing backlog has reduced since the high activity levels of Operation Telic but has risen this month, largely due to the need to undertake preparatory work at RAF Cottesmore in readiness for the relocation of engineering work from St. Athan.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what demonstrated *(a)* turn-round times and *(b)* manpower reductions have been achieved from the pulse line at RAF Cottesmore. [180646]

Mr. Ingram: The pulse line at RAF Cottesmore has to date achieved a reduction in aircraft turn-round times of about 45 days (some 40 per cent.) for scheduled maintenance. Six fewer personnel are now directly employed on aircraft maintenance.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the Harrier integrated project team is allocating work to BAE Warton and not RAF Cottesmore, as recommended in the E2E Harrier Investment Appraisal. [180647]

Mr. Ingram: The Harrier Modification Programme Number 3 identified that aircraft early in the programme must be contracted to BAE Systems Warton to achieve the Harrier GR9 in-service date and de-risk the transition to the Joint Upgrade and Maintenance Programme. Later aircraft will be allocated to RAF Cottesmore.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total implementation costs were for the pulse line at RAF Cottesmore, including the cost of consultants, the hangar floor and air trolleys. [181261]

Mr. Ingram: The implementation costs for the hangar floor and air trolleys amounted to some £600,000 excluding VAT. Consultancy support was used for all aircraft business improvements at RAF Cottesmore and to separately identify the costs for the pulse line would be time consuming and could only be achieved at disproportionate cost. These three elements constitute the full implementation cost of the pulse line.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether avionics and electrical tradesmen are being relocated from front line squadrons to assist the pulse line at RAF Cottesmore without the approval or authority of Strike Command. [181262]

Mr. Ingram: No.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the 80 day turn-round time has been achieved at RAF Cottesmore. [181264]

Mr. Ingram: Yes. The pulse line at RAF Cottesmore has to date achieved an average turn-round time of 75 days for scheduled maintenance.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the extent is of double shift working on Harrier aircraft at RAF Cottesmore. [181265]

Mr. Ingram: 'Double shift working' is taken to mean either two shifts of personnel working concurrently or personnel working both shifts in the same day. Since Op, no personnel at RAF Cottesmore have undertaken double shifts to maintain Harrier aircraft.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft were repaired at RAF Cottesmore in the financial year 2003–04. [181266]

Mr. Ingram: During financial year 2003–04 some 60 Harrier aircraft permanently based at RAF Cottesmore and RAF Wittering were subject to first line servicing and repair at the Stations. First line servicing includes daily inspections, fluid replenishments, component replacement and minor structural repair. In addition, 13 aircraft completed their servicing in the pulse line during FY 2003–04, a further seven aircraft began their servicing in FY 2002–03 and were completed in FY 2003–04 and five aircraft started servicing in FY 2003–04 but have not yet been completed.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the target number of aircraft to be repaired at RAF Cottesmore was in the financial year 2003–04. [181269]

Mr. Ingram: There are no targets set for the number of aircraft to be repaired at RAF Cottesmore. This is dependent on operational requirements and the management of the departmental fleet as a whole.

Staff Cars

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of the total of each different model of staff car was provided to officers of the armed forces in 2003, giving the country of manufacture of each model. [181450]

Mr. Caplin: The overwhelming majority of staff cars used by the Department are provided under the terms of two contracts for service provision. One contract provides a service in the UK and the other in Germany. Local arrangements apply in the smaller commands, such as Northern Ireland, but these have not been included in the answer.

The information regarding the models of staff car provided under the terms of the contracts in 2003 is given in the following tables:

United Kingdom

Manufacturer	*Model*	*Country of manufacture*	*Number*	*Percentage of total*
Vauxhall	Omega 2.5L	Germany	3	0.4
	Omega 2.0L	Germany	1	0.1
	Vectra 2.0L	Germany	502	61.5
Ford	Mondeo 2.0L	Belgium	228	27.9

United Kingdom

Manufacturer	*Model*	*Country of manufacture*	*Number*	*Percentage of total*
Rover	75 Connoisseur SE	United Kingdom	16	2.0
	75 CDT Club	United Kingdom	66	8.1
		Total	816	100

Germany

Manufacturer	*Model*	*Country of manufacture*	*Number*	*Percentage of total*
Opel	Omega	Germany	5	2.7
	Vectra	Germany	170	91.9
VW	Passat	Germany	10	5.4
		Total	185	100

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* geographic and *(b)* demographic factors he requires should be taken into account when reviewing the provision of accident and emergency services in (i) acute and (ii) community hospitals; [182521]

(2) how many accident treatment centres there are in England; and how many use tele-medicine; [182522]

(3) what assessment he has made of the optimal population size to be served by an accident treatment centre. [182523]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* The Department does not collect information on number of accident treatment centres in England, or how many use tele-medicine.

Accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk-in centres all vary in their sizes and in the populations they serve. It is the responsibility of the local national health service to develop services in response to local needs and to ensure that appropriate facilities are provided for the local population.

Guidance on service change, "Keeping the NHS Local—A New Direction of Travel" was published in February 2003. It sets out core principles for service change that the NHS must now follow. It challenges the view that biggest is best and sets out a range of strategies and options to help the NHS keep services local. This guidance also emphasises the important role community hospitals can play in providing partnership working with the whole health and social care system locally.

Anti-depressants

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received expressing dissatisfaction with the performance of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and the Committee on Safety of Medicines in communicating to users the risks of dependence on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and related drugs. [178442]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Representations have been received from patients and from hon. and right hon. Members in respect of constituents about withdrawal reactions associated with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and related drugs. In response, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) has communicated with prescribers about the potential for withdrawal reactions via articles in the bulletin, "Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance". An information sheet for patients about use of SSRIs in the September 2003 edition of "Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance" highlighted the issue of withdrawal reactions. This was drafted with the input of patient representatives from the CSM's expert working group on the safety of SSRIs. This information is also reflected in the patient information leaflets for these products, which have been updated as new evidence has become available.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality and *(b)* outcome of the 1998 review of the risk of dependence on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor and related anti-depressants, conducted by the sub-committee on pharmacovigilance; and what the relevant qualifications were of each member of the review panel. [178336]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The then Medicines Control Agency (MCA) conducted the review of withdrawal reactions associated with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and related anti-depressants, which was considered by the sub-committee on pharmacovigilance on 24 February 1998 and the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) on 26 March 1998. The CSM endorsed the conclusions of the sub-committee on pharmacovigilance, that all SSRIs were associated with withdrawal reactions and that no strong evidence from any source had been identified to suggest that the SSRIs and related anti-depressants cause features of dependence other than withdrawal symptoms.

A separate review of all available data was subsequently conducted by the European scientific advisory committee, the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) with France and Germany as lead member states. The conclusions of this review were consistent with those of the CSM and were published in a CPMP position paper in 2000.

The list of the members of the sub-committee on pharmacovigilance present at the 24 February 1998 meeting and their qualifications has been placed in the Library.

Cancer Treatment

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the use of linear accelerators in treating cancer patients. [182647]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Radiotherapy is a principle tool in the fight against cancer, alongside chemotherapy and surgery. Linear accelerators use high-energy x-ray beams to treat deep tumours and electrons to treat skin cancer.

We are committed to giving patients equal access to this technology. We have committed £145 million between 2002 and 2006 to provide 28 additional and 82 replacement linear accelerators to the national health service. This is in addition to the 15 additional linear accelerators and 42 replacements provided from the new opportunities fund between 1999 and 2003.

Commercial Directorate

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which Minister within his Department has responsibility for the Commercial Directorate at the NHS; [180441]

(2) what the objectives are of the Commercial Directorate in the NHS. [180443]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has overall responsibility for all areas of the Department, including the Commercial Directorate. I have specific responsibility for the Commercial Directorate.

The Commercial Directorate was established in June 2003 in response to the recognition of a need for more focus and synergy by the Department and the national health service in its dealings with the independent sector and also a requirement for the adoption of sharper commercial management and good practice.

The objectives of the Commercial Directorate are to secure best value and best practice for the Department and the NHS from its relationship with private and voluntary organisations and to provide a professional and commercially trained interface with the independent sector.

Departmental Policy (Gloucester Constituency)

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to the Gloucester constituency, the effects of changes to departmental policy since 1997 on the Gloucester constituency. [182328]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* The Government have put in place a programme of National Health Service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Gloucester constituency.

For example:

At the end of March 2004, the number of people waiting more than nine months for inpatient treatment within West Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT) has fallen to 2, from 217 in June 2002.

At the end of March 2004, the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for outpatient treatment within West Gloucestershire PCT has fallen to 75, from 1016 in June 2002.

In 2002, at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust, 87.1 per cent. of patients spent less than four hours in accident and emergency from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge. Figures for December 2003 show an improvement to 94.2 per cent.

Between September 2002 and September 2003, the number of consultants at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust has increased from 205 to 226. The number of nurses increased from 1,928 to 2,152.

Figures for April 2004 show that all patients within West Gloucestershire PCT are able to be offered an appointment with a primary care professional within one working day.

In the Gloucester local authority area, death rates from cancer per 100,000 population have fallen to 165.6 in 2002, from 176.7 in 1997.

In the Gloucester local authority area, death rates from coronary heart disease per 100,000 population have fallen to 149.8 in 2002, from 162.4 in 1997.

West Gloucestershire PCT's allocation has risen to 206.0 million for 2004–05, a cash increase of 9.4 per cent.

£30 million investment has been made in a private finance initiative redevelopment at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital to provide modern, state of the art health care facilities; anticipated to open in autumn 2004

£8.5 million has been invested in four new operating theatres and oral and maxillofacial laboratory and a medical engineering department at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Expert Patients Programme

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients who may benefit from the expert patients programme will have access to it by 2008. [181654]

Miss Melanie Johnson: By 2008, the expert patients programme will have become part of health care provision in this country and will be built into every health community in the national health service as part of the wider effort to improve services for people with chronic long-term conditions.

GPs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per primary care trust he estimates *(a)* provide national enhanced services for homeless people, *(b)* register homeless people for essential and advanced services and *(c)* provide outreach health care to homeless people; and if he will make a statement. [181211]

Mr. Hutton: This information is not held centrally, nor can it be estimated. Primary care trusts are responsible for ensuring the provision of primary care services to meet the needs of their populations, including the provision of essential, additional and enhanced primary medical care services for people who may be homeless.

Health Literacy

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition he uses of the term health literacy, as referred to in paragraph 8.30 of the NHS Improvement Plan. [182414]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department supports a broad meaning to the health literacy, such as the following given by the World Health Organisation:

"Health literacy represents the cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health.

Health literacy means more than being able to read pamphlets and successfully make appointments. By improving people's access to health information and their capacity to use it effectively, improved health literacy is critical to empowerment."

Healthy Living Centres

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that, when a prospective site for a healthy living centre has been identified, further consideration of that site is subject to the widest possible public consultation exercise, including public meetings. [182017]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The healthy living centre programme is funded by the big lottery fund via open competitive grants. The programme was launched in 1999 and made its final awards in September 2002.

In making grant awards, the big lottery fund required applicants to the healthy living centre programme to ensure that users and local communities were involved in both the design and delivery of grant projects. Relevant organisations such as local authorities, health boards and strategic health authorities should be involved in this process.

NHS Reviews

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests he received from local overview and scrutiny committees to refer proposals connected with NHS revision to independent review panels in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2003; and how many he granted. [182440]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* Local overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) had their powers vested in them from 1 January 2003. Since that date, there is no record held of a referral from an OSC on a substantial development to health services to the Secretary of State.

Obesity

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote physical activity as a means of tackling obesity. [179734]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Together with my right hon. Friend the Minister for Sport and Tourism, I chair the cross-Government activity co-ordination team. This group has been tasked with identifying and co-ordinating work to achieve greater levels of physical activity and sports participation, with the long term goal of improving health and wellbeing, including contributing to weight management and tackling obesity levels.

The Department, together with Sport England (a Department for Culture, Media and Sport funded non-departmental public body) and the Countryside Agency funds the local exercise action pilot scheme, which is testing out community-wide approaches to increasing levels of physical activity.

The Department, as a co-funder alongside the Countryside Agency and the British Heart Foundation, has contributed £27,000 to a pilot scheme that has distributed 10,000 pedometers for use in primary care.

The Department and Sport England have jointly commissioned research to evaluate existing questionnaires used to determine participation in physical activity and sport. We have also commissioned work to develop an objective measure of fitness for eventual inclusion in the Health Survey for England and a short physical activity questionnaire for use in general practice.

The Department published a national quality assurance framework for exercise referral systems in 2001 and has contributed funding to help establish the register of exercise professionals.

The Government have been consulting on further proposals on how we can increase levels of activity and encourage more people to be more active through the consultation document, "Choosing Health? Choosing Activity". The responses will inform preparation of the Public Health White Paper to be published in the autumn.

PHLS Media Services

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many expressions of interest have been received for the purchase of the business of PHLS Media Services; [179384]

(2) if he will publish the review of PHLS Media Services undertaken by KPMG; [179385]

(3) what his policy is for the future of PHLS Media Services; [179386]

(4) what plans he has to consult the staff of PHLS Media Services on its future; [179388]

(5) whether he has consulted *(a)* the Health Protection Agency and *(b)* the Purchasing and Supply Agency on the future of PHLS Media Services; [179390]

(6) whether he has consulted UK Resilience on the future of PHLS Media Services. [179391]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The production of specialist media for the Health Protection Agency (HPA) will be taken over by the HPA itself. Working with the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) board, we are exploring the possibilities for transferring the remainder of the PHLS' media supply operations to the private sector—from which we have received four replies to our approaches for expressions of interest for this business.

As part of this exercise, we are consulting with key customer and policy stakeholders concerning the future provision of microbiological media—including representatives of the HPA, the National Health Service

Purchasing and Supply Agency and the civil contingencies secretariat in the Cabinet Office. We do not plan to publish the report of the review of provision of media services prepared for the Department by KPMG.

The staff of the PHLS Media Services have already been advised by their management of the plans for the future of the service and they will be fully consulted as the plans are developed further.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of agar plates procured by NHS laboratories were supplied by PHLS Media Services in 2003; [179387]

(2) what the average cost is of agar plates purchased from *(a)* PHLS Media Services and *(b)* private sector suppliers. [179389]

Miss Melanie Johnson: In 2003, PHLS Media Services provided approximately 27 per cent. of the agar plates used by the national health service.

The average cost of plates provided to the NHS and the Health Protection Agency by PHLS Media Services during 2003 was £2.10 per pack of 10. Information on the cost of plates provided by private sector suppliers is not collected centrally.

Scanners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 190W, on scanners, according to what criteria he proposes to allocate additional capacity for mobile MRI scanners between strategic health authorities. [178902]

Miss Melanie Johnson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State of State for Health announced on 8 April that work is under way to eradicate waits for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) through national procurement of a mobile MRI service.

The new mobile MRI service offers a 10 per cent. increase in the capacity available to the national health service. In practical terms, approximately 120,000 extra scans will be available to doctors to help patient diagnosis. The scans will be provided by a number of mobile units—at this stage we expect at least 10—which can be moved from location to location. Therefore, strategic health authorities will receive activity on a fair shares basis and schedule visits to address areas of greatest need.

Social Care Students

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial assistance is available for students of social care. [182630]

Dr. Ladyman: All social work students who ordinarily reside in England receive a non-means tested bursary of an average of £2,500, plus £500 towards the practice placement travel costs. Tuition fees are also met.

Social work students are entitled to apply for the student loan and if they have special needs may also be entitled to allowances from the local education authority.

For social work students who hold a first degree, there is a means tested additional graduate bursary they can apply to for further funds.

Water Act

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department last discussed the draft regulations to be made under the Water Act 2003 on arrangement for public consultations with *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Healthcare, *(c)* patient interest groups, *(d)* the National Pure Water Association, *(e)* representatives of the water industry and *(f)* the British Fluoridation Society; and if he will make a statement; [181035]

(2) when he expects to publish the draft regulations under the Water Act 2003 on arrangements for public consultations; and if he will make a statement. [181036]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* We are shortly to publish a draft of the regulations to be made under the Water Act 2003 for consultation and intend that all the bodies to which the hon. Member refers should be included in the consultation.

Worcestershire NHS Acute Trust

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether private finance initiative payments at Worcestershire NHS Acute Trust are tied to interest rates set by the Bank of England. [181434]

Dr. Ladyman: The unitary payment at Worcestershire National Health Service Acute Trust escalates with the retail prices index each year during the contract period.

TREASURY

Landfill Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on his plans to increase the landfill tax. [182987]

John Healey: The Finance Act 2003 increased the standard rate of landfill tax by £1 per tonne to £15 per tonne from 1 April 2004. Budget 2003 announced that the rate would be increased by £3 per tonne in 2005–06, and by at least £3 per tonne in the following years, to reach a medium to long-term rate of £35 per tonne.

The lower rate of landfill tax, which applies to inactive waste, was frozen at £2 per tonne in Budget 2004.

Lone Parent Employment Rate

Denzil Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the lone parent employment rate is as a percentage of the total employment rate in Wales. [181799]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger to Mr. Denzil Davies, dated 6 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about lone parent employment rate. I am replying in his absence. (181799)

The table below gives the latest available information. Estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variability.

Employment of people of working age[1] resident in Wales—3 months ending November 2003

	Population	Number in employment	[2]Employment rate
All persons	1,748	1,272	72.8
Lone parents	102	56	54.9
Lone parents as percentage of all persons	5.8	4.4	—

[1] Covers men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] The employment rate is the number in employment expressed as a percentage of all working age people in the relevant group.

PFI/PPP Contracts

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst & Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182257]

Ruth Kelly: No contracts for advice on private finance initiative or public private partnership contracts have been let by the core Treasury or the Debt Management Office in the period since 1 April 2001. However, during the period, PriceWaterhouseCoopers were paid £1,910 plus VAT for training courses on PFI/PPP.

Departmental Estate

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total floor space area of buildings owned or leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department has been in each year since 1997 to date. [181848]

Ruth Kelly: The available information is set out as follows in the form in which the Chancellor's Departments and agencies have been able to compile it without having to incur disproportionate costs.

At the commencement of April 2001, the Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue transferred most of their estate to the STEPS contractor, and have occupied the space since then under separate PFI arrangements, as set out in the following table:

	Net area occupied (sq m)
Position at April 2001	1,470,366
Year April 2002	1,489,821
Year April 2003	1,490,986
Year April 2004	1,511,449

Note:
Information for earlier years is not available.

The Office for National Statistics does not hold historic information on the size of its buildings but currently owns or leases property totalling 86,000 sq m.

Royal Mint

			Sq m
	Owned	Leased	Total
1997	41,349	1,000	42,349
1998	4,139	1,000	42,349
1999	46,093	1,000	47,093
2000	46,093	1,000	47,093
2001	46,093	1,000	47,093
2002	46,137	1,000	47,137
2003	46,137	—	46,137
2004	46,233	—	46,233

Debt Management Office

	Sq m
1997	0
1998	492.55
1999	492.55
2000	492.55
2001	1,311.09
2002	1,311.09
2003	1,311.09
2004	1,311.09

National Savings and Investments have three sites, the total figure of floor space owned or leased has remained constant since 1997 at 94,500 sq m.

Data for the Government Actuaries Department are not available prior to July 2003. Since then, the Department has owned or leased 2,897 sq m.

Office Government Commerce was established in 2000.

Sq m

	Residual freehold	Residual leasehold	Residual total	Occupied freehold	Occupied leasehold	Total for all estate OGC and OGC BS
1999–2000	190,089.0	91,131.0	281,220.0	1,042.9	14,761.0	297,023.90
2000–01	169,937.2	63,229.2	233,166.4	1,042.9	14,761.0 1,709.2 (BS)	250,679.50
2001–02	104,520.8	55,859.6	160,380.4	1,042.9	13,959.7 1,795.6 (BS)	177,178.60

Sq m

	Residual freehold	*Residual leasehold*	*Residual total*	*Occupied freehold*	*Occupied leasehold*	*Total for all estate OGC and OGC BS*
2002-03	0	47,179.3	47,179.3	1,042.9	13,324.8 1,795.6 (BS)	63,342.60
2	0	26,146.2	20,146.2	1,042.9	13,324.8 1,795.6 (BS)	36,309.50

The use of space by the Treasury has remained constant since 1997 at 32,000.00 sq m.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what parts of his Department's estate will not be covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181851]

John Healey: Virtually all of the estate is covered by the commitments with the minor exception of a small number of Customs' buildings for which information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182141]

Ruth Kelly: The Valuation Office Agency is responsible for two empty houses.

Infant Mortality

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the infant mortality rates in each health authority in England were in each of the last five years, broken down by social class. [181707]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger to Helen Jones, dated 5 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the infant mortality rates in each health authority in England were in each of the last five years, broken down by social class. I am replying in his absence. (181707)

In 2001, Social Class was replaced by the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) in all official statistics.

The table below gives infant mortality rates in each of the Strategic Health Authorities in England for 1998 to 2002 by the National Statistics Social Economic Classification (NS-SEC) based on the father's occupation. The definition of infant mortality is deaths occurring to children under 1 year of age.

In this table, figures for years prior to 2001 are based on standard methods of estimating NS-SEC[1] for these years. Figures presented are for a three category version of the classification and relate to the boundaries of Strategic Health Authorities as at May 2003.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2003) Implications of change in the United Kingdom social and occupational classifications in 2001 on infant mortality statistics, Health Statistics Quarterly, 17, 33–40

Infant mortality[1] numbers and rates by strategic health authority and NS-SEC (based on father's occupation)[2]: 1998 to 2002

number of deaths

	1998			*1999*		
Strategic health authority	*Managerial professional*	*Intermediate*	*Routine*	*Managerial professional*	*Intermediate*	*Routine*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	34	29	54	33	16	56
Bedford and Hertfordshire	36	13	42	27	19	40
Essex	22	24	39	26	17	27
North West London	45	26	40	34	25	46
North Central London	31	13	31	27	13	43
North East London	46	26	47	30	27	66
South East London	40	31	49	40	21	47
South West London	33	20	25	31	13	26
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	8	11	34	12	11	45
County Durham and Tees Valley	18	9	28	12	9	31
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	17	27	46	13	20	50
West Yorkshire	39	30	98	34	24	88
Cumbria and Lancashire	25	28	70	22	32	64
Greater Manchester	34	28	85	33	32	101
Cheshire and Merseyside	32	22	84	35	28	77
Thames Valley	38	36	43	55	30	42
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	23	14	35	30	25	33
Kent and Medway	19	8	47	24	19	39
Surrey and Sussex	40	32	32	44	21	44
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	41	25	54	27	28	52
South West Peninsula	10	24	25	11	22	30
Dorset and Somerset	8	20	20	14	12	25
South Yorkshire	21	17	47	26	13	37
Trent	27	35	80	31	27	85
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	20	22	55	31	21	57
Shropshire and Staffordshire	17	18	40	18	19	51
Birmingham and the Black Country	49	35	113	43	34	123
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	27	19	52	25	13	48
England	800	642	1,415	788	591	1,473

number of deaths

Strategic health authority	2000 Managerial professional	2000 Intermediate	2000 Routine and manual	2001 Managerial professional	2001 Intermediate	2001 Routine and manual
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	26	15	45	20	25	38
Bedford and Hertfordshire	31	12	45	32	22	37
Essex	15	22	25	22	13	25
North West London	48	29	27	46	25	52
North Central London	20	9	29	25	10	24
North East London	27	32	56	32	27	52
South East London	23	30	33	38	25	44
South West London	23	15	25	34	10	18
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	9	19	39	15	5	21
County Durham and Tees Valley	15	13	33	15	11	38
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	24	16	40	9	12	34
West Yorkshire	30	31	112	35	32	69
Cumbria and Lancashire	21	23	60	21	23	54
Greater Manchester	32*	36	86	40	21	81
Cheshire and Merseyside	30	31	57	21	22	50
Thames Valley	35	19	52	46	22	55
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	29	16	36	24	19	32
Kent and Medway	27	11	25	18	12	23
Surrey and Sussex	44	31	35	29	13	36
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	20	29	53	35	30	47
South West Peninsula	13	8	41	11	18	32
Dorset and Somerset	12	11	22	18	12	24
South Yorkshire	18	15	39	14	9	36
Trent	39	22	76	28	28	62
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	31	8	42	17	18	33
Shropshire and Staffordshire	12	17	65	17	18	41
Birmingham and the Black Country	36	29	118	36	30	109
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	21	12	43	17	19	32
England	711	561	1,359	715	531	1,199

Number of deaths

Strategic health authority	2002 Managerial professional	2002 Intermediate	2002 Routine and manual
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	25	17	38
Bedford and Hertfordshire	29	16	31
Essex	22	17	33
North West London	34	31	42
North Central London	31	8	13
North East London	33	26	51
South East London	23	31	42
South West London	26	11	21
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	12	7	28
County Durham and Tees Valley	9	5	30
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	8	11	37
West Yorkshire	21	30	99
Cumbria and Lancashire	16	9	51
Greater Manchester	34	23	67
Cheshire and Merseyside	29	18	50
Thames Valley	29	23	37
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	26	16	25
Kent and Medway	24	19	38
Surrey and Sussex	47	24	34
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	27	23	31
South West Peninsula	16	13	22
Dorset and Somerset	18	9	20
South Yorkshire	21	17	40
Trent	36	26	84
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	20	14	34
Shropshire and Staffordshire	16	13	49
Birmingham and the Black Country	34	38	103
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	21	12	33
England	687	507	1,183

rates[3] (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

Strategic health authority	1998 Managerial professional	1998 Intermediate	1998 Routine and manual	1999 Managerial professional	1999 Intermediate	1999 Routine and manual
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	4.1	6.0	5.3	3.9	4.1	5.8
Bedford and Hertfordshire	4.1	3.3	6.1	3.0	4.9	6.1
Essex	3.1	5.8	5.9	3.6	4.3	4.6
North West London	4.6	5.9	5.8	3.3	5.7	7.1
North Central London	4.4	4.3	7.0	4.0	4.6	10.4
North East London	7.2	6.3	5.2	4.5	6.3	7.3
South East London	5.2	7.3	7.9	5.2	5.0	7.8

rates[3] (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

Strategic health authority	1998 Managerial professional	1998 Intermediate	1998 Routine and manual	1999 Managerial professional	1999 Intermediate	1999 Routine and manual
South West London	3.9	6.0	6.2	3.5	4.3	6.8
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	2.4	5.0	4.3	3.1	5.5	6.5
County Durham and Tees Valley	6.3	5.4	4.2	4.1	6.4	4.8
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	3.3	9.8	5.9	2.4	7.2	6.8
West Yorkshire	5.3	7.8	7.6	4.9	6.6	70
Cumbria and Lancashire	4.6	7.0	6.8	3.7	9.8	6.5
Greater Manchester	4.3	5.7	6.1	3.9	7.1	7.2
Cheshire and Merseyside	3.9	6.0	7.4	4.3	7.3	7.4
Thames Valley	3.1	8.2	5.2	4.3	6.2	5.4
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	2.9	3.6	5.0	3.7	7.0	4.7
Kent and Medway	2.9	2.3	6.4	3.6	5.2	5.5
Surrey and Sussex	3.0	5.6	4.1	3.3	3.6	6.0
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	4.2	5.5	5.8	2.8	6.2	5.9
South West Peninsula	2.3	6.3	3.9	2.5	6.4	4.7
Dorset and Somerset	2.2	7.8	4.3	36	5.3	5.7
South Yorkshire	6.1	8.3	6.2	7.3	7.7	5.1
Trent	3.4	7.6	5.7	3.8	6.8	6.3
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	3.3	7.1	6.9	4.9	7.3	7.4
Shropshire and Staffordshire	3.8	5.9	5.0	3.9	7.3	6.9
Birmingham and the Black Country	6.9	7.4	7.9	6.0	7.8	8.6
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	4.4	7.1	7.3	4.4	4.8	7.1
England	4.1	6.2	6.0	3.9	6.0	6.6

rates[3] (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

Strategic health authority	2000 Managerial professional	2000 Intermediate	2000 Routine and manual	2001 Managerial professional	2001 Intermediate	2001 Routine and manual
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	3.0	3.8	5.0	2.2	6.9	4.6
Bedford and Hertfordshire	3.6	3.1	7.0	3.4	6.0	6.4
Essex	2.1	6.1	4.3	3.1	3.2	4.4
North West London	4.8	7.1	4.5	4.3	6.9	8.9
North Central London	2.8	3.6	6.8	3.4	3.9	5.6
North East London	41	7.9	6.5	4.8	6.0	6.1
South East London	2.8	8.2	5.5	5.0	6.3	7.0
South West London	2.6	4.8	6.6	3.8	3.6	4.8
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	2.5	9.6	5.7	4.4	2.5	3.2
County Durham and Tees Valley	5.3	10.2	5.5	5.3	7.9	6.7
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	4.5	5.8	5.8	1.7	4.8	5.0
West Yorkshire	4.4	8.0	9.6	4.9	8.3	5.8
Cumbria and Lancashire	3.9	6.5	6.5	3.8	6.9	5.9
Greater Manchester	4.0	7.8	6.5	4.9	4.1	6.8
Cheshire and Merseyside	3.7	8.7	5.4	2.6	6.0	5.2
Thames Valley	2.8	4.2	7.2	3.7	5.6	7.7
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	3.7	4.7	5.5	3.1	5.3	5.4
Kent and Medway	4.1	3.4	3.8	2.3	4.1	3.7
Surrey and Sussex	3.3	5.8	4.8	2.3	2.5	5.4
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	2.1	6.5	6.1	3.8	7.2	5.7
South West Peninsula	3.0	2.3	7.5	2.5	6.0	5.8
Dorset and Somerset	3.0	4.6	5.5	4.2	5.5	6.3
South Yorkshire	5.2	7.4	5.9	4.3	4.4	5.7
Trent	4.7	4.9	6.4	3.4	6.7	5.4
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	5.1	2.7	5.4	2.7	7.1	4.4
Shropshire and Staffordshire	2.6	7.3	9.2	3.7	8.7	5.5
Birmingham and the Black Country	4.8	6.8	8.7	5.0	7.0	8.0
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	3.6	4.5	6.6	3.0	7.5	4.9
England	3.6	5.8	6.4	3.5	5.7	5.8

rates[3] (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

Strategic health authority	2002 Managerial professional	2002 Intermediate	2002 Routine and manual
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	3.0	4.2	4.5
Bedford and Hertfordshire	3.2	4.5	5.3
Essex	3.1	4.5	5.9
North West London	3.0	7.9	7.3
North Central London	4.3	2.9	3.4
North East London	5.0	5.6	6.2
South East London	2.9	7.7	7.7
South West London	2.9	3.6	5.9
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	3.2	3.7	4.3
County Durham and Tees Valley	3.0	3.6	5.3
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1.7	4.0	5.2
West Yorkshire	3.0	7.4	8.5
Cumbria and Lancashire	2.7	2.5	6.1

rates[3] (infant deaths per 1,000 live births)

Strategic health authority	2002 Managerial professional	Intermediate	Routine and manual
Greater Manchester	3.9	4.5	5.6
Cheshire and Merseyside	3.6	5.5	5.5
Thames Valley	2.3	5.2	5.3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	3.2	4.4	4.4
Kent and Medway	3.6	5.6	6.1
Surrey and Sussex	3.6	4.5	5.1
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	2.9	5.4	3.8
South West Peninsula	3.4	4.1	3.9
Dorset and Somerset	4.1	4.3	5.2
South Yorkshire	6.2	6.8	6.9
Trent	4.3	6.2	7.3
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	3.1	4.8	4.9
Shropshire and Staffordshire	3.6	4.8	7.2
Birmingham and the Black Country	4.6	7.9	8.0
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	3.5	4.9	5.2
England	3.2	5.2	5.9

[1] Covers deaths to all babies aged less than one year.
[2] Information on father's occupation is not collected for births where the father was not present at the birth registration. Therefore, babies that were solely registered were not included.
[3] Figures for live births are a 10 per cent. sample coded for father's occupation.

Private Finance Initiative

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was consulted by the National Audit Office prior to the practical workshops in managing private finance initiative relationships launched on 22 June 2004, as part of the NAO's PFI/PPP Conference. [182421]

Mr. Boateng: The Treasury was not consulted by the NAO prior to the practical workshops which took place at the NAO PFI/PPP conference on 22 June 2004.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Rights Activists

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convictions there were in the last 24 months for illegal activities by animal rights activists; [172058]

(2) how many custodial sentences were issued in relation to offences committed by animal rights activists in the last 24 months. [172059]

Caroline Flint: It is not possible from the information collected centrally by the Home Office to identify whether a defendant in any particular case is an animal rights activist. However, we understand from the police that there were 117 arrests of animal rights activists during the first four months of 2004 compared with 15 arrests during the same period in 2003. The Home Office is working with the police and other agencies to improve availability of information in this area.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made by the National Crime Squad in each year since 2001 in relation to animal rights extremism. [180785]

Caroline Flint: The National Crime Squad provides specialist support and assistance to police forces. It is, however, individual police forces that lead on investigations within their areas, including investigations into the activities of animal rights extremists.

The information collected centrally by the Home Office does not identify whether a defendant is an animal rights protestor. However we understand from the police that there have been at least 117 arrests of animal rights activists during the first four months of 2004 compared with 15 arrests during the same period in 2003. The Home Office is working with the police and other agencies to improve the availability of information in this area.

Botulinium

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to ensure that botulinium toxin for which licences to test on animals have been issued is used only for clinical purposes; and if he will make a statement. [181807]

Caroline Flint: All licence authorities granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, for animal tests to meet regulatory requirements for use of this substance in humans, are expressly restricted to the testing of material manufactured and intended only for clinical uses. Compliance with licence authorities is monitored as part of the Home Office inspection programme. We believe that there is a product intended for apparent non-medical purposes, but as it is neither manufactured nor tested on animals in the UK, it is beyond the controls of the 1986 Act.

Bribery/Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for bribing foreign officials under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [180147]

Paul Goggins: Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, which came into force on 14 February 2002, did not introduce any new offences, but made two main changes to the law of corruption:

Section 108 put beyond doubt that the existing offences of corruption apply to the bribery of foreign public office holders. This change mainly clarified existing law.

Section 109 was the significant change: it gave our courts jurisdiction over certain offences of corruption when they are committed overseas by UK nationals or by bodies incorporated under UK law. The relevant offences are *(a)* common law offence of bribery, *(b)* the offences under section 2 of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889; and *(c)* the first two offences under section 1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906.

The Home Office Court Proceedings database does not contain details of the circumstances of offences for which prosecutions are brought, so the figures collected on these offences, cannot identify the status of the persons involved. The aggregate collection of arrest figures cannot be broken down into individual offences.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional resources have been made available to the security and police services for enforcement of the provisions on bribing foreign officials under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [180148]

Paul Goggins: Implementation of Part 12 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 Act (ATCS) forms part of the National Policing Plan. Each Police Authority and Chief Constable will take the National Policing Plan into account when drawing up their Local Policing Plans. No specific resources have been allocated for the enforcement of Part 12 of the ATCS.

However, we have put significant extra resources into the police service in England and Wales over the last few years. Since 2000–01 total provision for policing has risen by over 30 per cent.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of overseas bribery are on the national register held by the National Criminal Intelligence Service; and what action is being taken on each. [174031]

Caroline Flint: There are currently 18 recorded cases held on the register, eight of which either pre-dated or were not relevant under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

Six cases have been referred to the Metropolitan police and Serious Fraud Office for investigation, and four cases are under investigation by the Ministry of Defence police.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the whole-time equivalent staff resources of *(a)* the National Criminal Intelligence Service, *(b)* the City of London Police Fraud Squad and *(c)* the fraud teams of the Metropolitan Police and their predecessors were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [182099]

Caroline Flint: The information is as follows:

	Staff
National Criminal Intelligence Service:	
1997 (based on April data)	[1]562
2001 (based on April data)	[2]676
2004 (projected figure for August 2004)[3]	[2]1,108
City of London Fraud Squad:	
1994[4]	107
2001	65
2004	85
Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad (and subsequent derivatives)[5]	
End of March	
1997	
Police officers	137.0
Police staff	45.79
2001	
Police officers	211.68
Police staff	51.66
2004	
Police officers	273.98
Police staff	81.10

[1] The 1997 figures are given as a total and do not exclude attachments. Prior to 1 April 1998, the NCIS structure was different and the demarcation between directly employed, seconded and attached staff was different to post April 1998.

[2] Excluding attachments.

[3] Projected figures have been provided as they better reflect changes that are currently taking place within the organisation. The April figure alone would not be relevant for the majority of the year.

[4] Approximately the same as in 1997—exact figure not available.

[5] The nature of work undertaken by the MPS Fraud Departments has altered as external and internal organisational changes have taken place over time and, as a consequence, figures may not be directly comparable.

Crime/Policing (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many drug-related offences were recorded in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire; [180415]

(2) how many people were arrested for drug offences and prosecuted in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire. [180416]

Caroline Flint: Recorded crime figures include statistics on drugs offences, such as possession, and on acquisitive crimes, such as burglary, but do not record whether the latter are related to an offender's drug habits.

The NEW-ADAM research programme of interviewing and drug testing those arrested by the police sheds some light on the links between drugs and crime, although the conclusions do not relate specifically to Lancashire and the North West region. Data from 16 locations (1999–2001) indicate that users of heroin and cocaine and crack reported committing an average of 442 acquisitive crimes in the last year. This was nearly six times higher than for non-drug users. Almost half of those arrested for property offences tested positive for opiates and/or cocaine.

The total number of acquisitive crimes recorded by the police in Lancashire and the North West region in 2001–03 are set out in Table 1 (data are not available for Chorley, or for Lancashire and the North West prior to

2001). Acquisitive crimes are burglary, theft, handling stolen goods and robbery.

Table 1: Acquisitive crimes recorded by the police, 2001–03

	Acquisitive crimes	
	2001–02	*2002–03*
Lancashire	98,559	89,993
North West	598,665	588,566

Sources:
"Crime in England and Wales 2001/2002" Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/02.
"Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003" Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/03.

Information on the persons found guilty or cautioned for drug offences by Lancashire police in each of the last 10 years are given in Table 2. Data are not available for Chorley. Data for 2001 and 2002 will be published on 15 July 2004.

Table 2: Persons found guilty or cautioned for drug offences by Lancashire police, 1990 to 2000

	Number of persons
1990	736
1991	705
1992	899
1993	1,688
1994	2,173
1995	2,798
1996	2,824
1997	3,485
1998	4,154
1999	3,448
2000	2,980

These data are taken from the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin. These are available on the RDS website and in the Library.

Criminal Justice Act

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the implementation dates for each measure contained in the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [181585]

Paul Goggins: The dates on which various provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have been commenced are set out as follows:

20 November 2003:

General provisions in Part 14.

Enforcement of regulations implementing.

Community legislation on endangered species.

18 December 2003:

Effect of life sentence.

20 January 2004:

Stop and search for criminal damage offences.

Use of civilians to search and enter.

Street bail.

Increased use of telephones to review police detention.

Increased limits on period of detention without charge.

Reduced burden on recording property of a person in police detention.

New arrangements for amending PACE Codes.

Access to Parole Board for offenders transferred to mental hospital.

Increased limit on detention without charge of terrorist suspects.

Outraging public decency made triable either way.

Limiting civil proceedings for trespass to the person brought by an offender.

22 January 2004:

Minimum sentence for firearms offences.

26 January 2004:

Intermittent custody.

29 January 2004:

Making possession of cannabis and identity fraud offences arrestable.

Charging or release of persons in police detention.

Removal of requirement to substantiate information on oath.

Increased penalties in trafficking in Class C drugs.

Increase in penalty for fraudulently obtaining a driving licence.

27 February 2004:

Sentencing Guidelines Council.

Increased penalties for driving offences resulting in death.

Parenting orders and referral orders.

5 April 2004:

Taking of fingerprints and DMA from those arrested but not charged.

Grant and conditional of bail.

Extending time for bringing case under S6 of the Bail Act.

Change in jurisdiction of Court of Appeal to hear appeals against bail conditions.

Abolishing High Court jurisdiction to hear bail cases.

Restriction on bail for drug users.

Use of documents to refresh witnesses memory.

Jury service.

Extending MAPPA arrangements.

Disqualification from working with children.

Individual support orders.

14 June 2004:

Early release and removal of foreign national prisoners.

3 July 2004:

Conditional cautions.

1 September 2004:

Extension of investigations by the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC).

Power to substitute conviction of an alternative offence on appeal.

No final decision has been taken regarding the dates of commencement of the remaining provisions of the Act.

Criminal Justice Pilot Projects

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the criminal justice pilot projects being undertaken, broken down by *(a)* Probation Area and *(b)* statutory basis. [181584]

Paul Goggins: The tables A and B provide the following information.

Pilot projects for which the National Probation Service (NPS) has the lead, or shared lead, currently in operation, and their distribution among the 42 NPS Areas in England and Wales. The Intermittent Custody

sentence and the Presumption Against Bail Pilot are contained within the Criminal Justice Act 2003; no other NPS led pilot project has a statutory reference.

A schedule of current Central Initiatives Pilots, covering arrest to disposal, maintained by the Criminal Justice System (CJS) Reform Programme Office

Table A: National Probation Service pilot projects—June 2004

Name of pilot project	*Pilot projects—area coverage*	*Statutory reference*
Prospects—resettlement pilot for persistent drug users	Lancashire, Devon and Cornwall, Avon and Somerset, Merseyside	
Circles of Support and Accountability	Hampshire—Hampton Trust Thames Valley—Quakers Potential resettlement in all 42 areas—Lucy Faithfull Foundation (for former members of Wolvercote Clinic)	
Leisurewatch (the Derwent Initiative)	Northumbria, Surrey, Greater Manchester, Essex	
Stop it Now! (Lead charity—Lucy Faithfull Foundation)	Surrey, Derbyshire, Thames Valley, London	
Wolvercote Outreach (Lucy Faithfull Foundation)	Potential catchment area of offenders from all 42 areas, and source of advice to all 42 areas	
Young Sex Offenders (Lucy Faithfull Foundation)	Advice to all 42 NPS areas working with young people	
Incest and Sexual Abuse Survivors Staffordshire Accommodation Project—Intensive Floating Support Scheme for Dangerous Offenders	Nottinghamshire Staffordshire	
Community Domestic Violence Programme	Merseyside, Cheshire, Thames Valley	
Employment Pathfinder Phase 2	London, North Wales, Leicestershire and Rutland, Norfolk, West Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall, Lincolnshire	
Approved Premises Pathfinder	Bedfordshire, West Midlands, Northamptonshire, Merseyside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester	
Intensive Control and Change Programme	London, Humberside, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, West Yorkshire, South Wales, Hampshire, Lancashire, West Mercia, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire	
Intensive Supervision and Monitoring Schemes	London, South Wales, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Avon and Somerset, Leicestershire, Humberside, Sussex, Cambridgeshire, West Midlands, Nottinghamshire, Merseyside	
Intermittent Custody Pilots	Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, West Yorkshire	Criminal Justice Act 2003 Part 12—Sentencing—Chapter 3—Section 183—Intermittent Custody
The Use of Polygraph Examinations in Risk Management of Sex Offenders	Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Devon and Cornwall, Lancashire, Leicestershire, London, Greater Manchester, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, Thames Valley, West Midlands	
Benefit Sanctions Pilots Presumption against bail pilot (DSD-CJIP)	Teeside, Derbyshire, West Midlands, Hertfordshire Nottinghamshire, Greater Manchester	Criminal Justice Act 2003—Part 2—Section 19
Miscarriages of Justice Project (funded by NPD)	London—Royal Courts of Justice Citizens Advice Bureau	
Workload Measurement Tool (an internal NPS/NPD management pilot project, that is not offender based)	Greater Manchester, Wiltshire, Gwent, North Yorkshire, Hertfordshire	

Table B: Central Initiatives —CJS Reform Programme Office

Name of pilot project	*Pilot projects—area coverage*
Early Advice and Charging Programme	Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, London, Merseyside, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley, West Midlands, West Yorkshire
ETMP Prototypes	Greater Manchester, London, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire, North Wales
No Witness No Justice—CPS/ACPO	Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, London, Merseyside, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Essex, Gwent, North Wales
Conditional Cautions	Avon and Somerset, Lancashire, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley, Hertfordshire, West Mercia
Defender Management	South Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Essex, Gwent, North Wales
Special Measures for Victims and Witnesses	London, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall, Norfolk, South Wales
Devolution of Witness Funding	Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Surrey
Intermittent Custody	Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, West Yorkshire

Table B: Central Initiatives —CJS Reform Programme Office

Name of pilot project	*Pilot projects—area coverage*
Enforcement—Fine Enforcement	Greater Manchester, London, Merseyside, Thames Valley, West Midlands, West Yorkshire
Enforcement—Failed to Attend Warrants	South Wales
Enforcement—Direct Entry of Warrants on PNC	Staffordshire
Enforcement—Multi Agency Enforcement Team	Leicestershire
Drug Testing	Greater Manchester, Humberside, London, Merseyside, Nottinghamshire, West Yorkshire, Cleveland

Cyber Terrorist Attacks

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to prevent cyber terrorist attacks on mobile telephony systems; and if he will make a statement. [180103]

Ms Blears: The National Infrastructure Security Co-ordination Centre (NISCC) is continually monitoring the threat of electronic attack against the UK Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) including attacks on mobile telephony systems.

NISCC established and operates the Network Security Information Exchange, covering telecommunications, data and mobile communications. NISCC recently issued technical guidance to CNI partners on mobile telephony, designed to combat vulnerabilities.

Cycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1507W, on cycling, what publicity campaigns he has undertaken to encourage pedestrians who are knocked over by cyclists on footpaths and pavements to report the incident to the police. [181682]

Caroline Flint: We have undertaken no specific publicity on this issue and do not consider a dedicated national campaign appropriate. Police and local authorities may take such actions in particular areas if there is a special problem.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has offered to police forces on *(a)* the prevention of cyclists using footpaths and pavements and *(b)* the steps to be taken against cyclists who use footpaths and pavements. [181683]

Caroline Flint: Chief officers of police are best placed to assess the nature and cause of cycling offences locally and to decide the most appropriate response.

The Government do not condone irresponsible cycling and will continue to promote safe behaviour on bicycles. To help the police with enforcement we have made it possible for Community Support Officers (CSOs) appointed under the Police Reform Act 2002 to issue £30 fixed penalty notices for cycling inconsiderately or irresponsibly on pavements.

The cycling infrastructure and environment are currently under improvement as a result of our National Cycling strategy. We expect this improvement to reduce the incentive to cycle on the pavement.

Databases

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual records have been added to the national DNA database under section 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [181501]

Caroline Flint: It is estimated that 3,686 new DNA profiles taken from individuals have been added to the national DNA database since 5 April 2004. Information is not available, however, about how many of these were obtained as a result of the new powers under Section 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings the Police Information Technology Organisation has held with representatives of foreign Governments and law enforcement agencies in relation to the sharing of information held on their respective databases in the last two years. [181502]

Caroline Flint: Exchanges of information with foreign governments and law enforcement agents are governed by Memorandum of Understanding negotiated by the Home Office and the Law Enforcement agencies concerned. The bulk of these exchanges are facilitated through Interpol or Europol although there are some bilateral arrangements with a major allies, for example US and Canada.

The Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) role is to ensure that the technical mechanism to support these exchanges is in place. At present the majority of bulk information exchanges are undertaken via magnetic media. At present there is no interactive access by any foreign government to national databases owned or controlled by UK police forces.

Drug Misuse/Treatment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public funds were spent on tackling drugs misuse in the constituency of Tamworth in *(a)* 1997–98 and *(b)* 2003–04. [179967]

Caroline Flint: Breakdown of financial allocation to local constituencies is not available in the form requested as funding is allocated to Drug Action Team

(DAT) areas. In this case Staffordshire DAT which covers; Tamworth, Staffordshire Moorlands, Burton, Cannock Chase, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyne, South Staffordshire and Stone.

The period for 1997–98 is prior to the formation of the National Drug Strategy and there is no locally held information on funding available for that financial year.

In 2003–04 the total drugs allocation for Staffordshire DAT was £4,387,767. In order to ensure consistency, figures supplied are based on funding streams associated with the National Drug Strategy that are readily verifiable. These funding streams are specifically targeted at tackling the harm caused to individuals, families and communities by the misuse of drugs. Other mainstream funding is made available at a local level, this varies both in amount and origin and as a result it is not possible to provide robust financial information.

2003–04

	£
Partnership Capacity	100,224
Treatment Pooled Budget	2,586,000
Through Care After Care Pump Priming	35,000
Building Safer Communities[1]	1,032,206
Young People	634,337
Total	4,387,767

[1] Contains non-drug elements.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he will introduce to reduce waiting times for drug treatment. [182229]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

In December 2001, the National Treatment Agency (NTA) set waiting time targets, against which drug action teams are held to account. Since then, average waiting times have fallen substantially in all treatment categories, from between five to 11 weeks in December 2001, to two to four weeks in May 2004.

The NTA and the National Institute for Mental Health in England have developed a national programme to improve access to treatment for drug misusers. Their joint programme focuses on implementing tools and techniques for reducing waiting times that have already proved to be successful elsewhere in the health and social care system, both in the United Kingdom and abroad.

Drugs Strategy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government expect to publish its next drugs strategy report. [178288]

Caroline Flint: On 3 December 2002, the Government published their Updated Drug Strategy setting out progress made in tackling drug misuse since 1998. It also presents revised targets to 2008 and the range of policies and interventions planned to achieve them. A copy is in the Library.

Recent progress against the Updated Drug Strategy was published as part of the Home Office Departmental Report 2004 on 30 April 2004. A copy is in the Library.

EU Accession States (Driving Offences)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice has been given to *(a)* local police forces and *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service about the prosecution of those from the new EU member states who commit driving and other motoring offences. [181254]

Caroline Flint: The legislation on driving and other aspects of motoring applies to persons from the new EU member states as it does to other drivers. Enforcement of the law is a matter for the police, who will decide what approach is most effective in different circumstances. It is then for the Crown Prosecution Service to reach a decision as to prosecution. We recognise there are practical difficulties if someone from another country returns home before a trial and are currently examining possible ways of meeting this problem.

European Court of Human Rights (Ezeh and Connors)

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the issue of compensation regarding the release of prisoners following the Ezeh and Connors ruling by the European Court of Human Rights has been determined. [182059]

Paul Goggins: The European Court of Human Rights delivered its final judgment in the case of Ezeh and Connors on 9 October 2003 when it confirmed the decision not to award them compensation for the additional days that they served in prison as a result of the disciplinary punishments. Accordingly, the Prison Service does not propose to compensate those finding themselves in a similar position.

Football Violence

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested in Lancashire following the England v France football match; and at what capacity cells were used on that evening. [179519]

Caroline Flint: I understand from Lancashire Constabulary that there were 57 arrests in the region for public order offences following the England/France match. By 11pm that night they had 128 cells free with a further 27 around the country which could be opened if the need arose.

Home Detention Curfew Scheme

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* released under the home detention curfew scheme in each prison region during January and February. [163269]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 23 March 2004]:* The table shows the number of sentenced prisoners in the prison population at 31 December 2003 and 31 January

2004 with a sentence length of three months to less than four years, whose Home Detention Curfew (HDC) eligibility date will fall in the next month.

Some prisoners with a sentence length of three months to less than four years do not qualify for HDC because of the nature of their current or previous offences.

In addition, the figures also exclude a small number of prisoners in the population who are on remand at the end of the previous month, but subsequently get sentenced to a custodial sentence suitable for HOC and whose HDC eligibility date falls in the month. This occurs when they have spent a significant period on remand.

Number of sentenced prisoners within relevant sentence length bands, and number released under HOC, by month and Prison Service management area

	January 2004		*February 2004*	
	Number of prisoners with sentences of 3 months to less than 4 years[1]	*Number released on HDC*	*Number of prisoners with sentences of 3 months to less than 4 years*[1]	*Number released on HDC*
North East	175	36	154	24
North West	418	181	475	170
Yorkshire and Humberside	428	176	349	143
East Midlands (North)	202	69	200	76
Wales	111	41	116	42
West Midlands	429	167	400	140
East Midlands (South)	212	73	227	102
Eastern	309	111	301	95
South West	359	96	359	105
Thames Valley, Hampshire and IOW	174	70	204	67
London	292	47	267	69
Kent, Surrey and Sussex	350	133	334	142
Female	331	146	316	126
Juvenile	10	5	3	0
High Security	206	59	216	60
Contracted Out	341	77	387	80

[1] Count of sentenced prisoners whose HDC eligibility date falls in the corresponding month.

A prisoner may be in one region at the end of the month when the number within the relevant sentence band is calculated and in another region when released. The high security estate includes a number of local prisons such as Manchester and Durham.

Informants

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what standard police operating procedures apply in relation to the use of informants. [176909]

Caroline Flint: The use of covert human intelligence sources, including informants, is regulated by Part II of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Guidance on the authorisation of the conduct or use of covert human intelligence sources is provided in the statutory Code of Practice, which is published on the Home Office web site. The Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland has produced a Manual of Standards for the conduct and use of covert human intelligence sources. Publication of that manual, which includes information about operational policing procedures and techniques, is restricted but has been made available to the Surveillance Commissioners who oversee Part II of RIPA.

LD50 Procedure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the use of the LD50 procedure; and if he will make a statement. [181808]

Caroline Flint: The Home Office has not commissioned any research on the use of the LD50 procedure in animal testing. However, we do evaluate relevant analysis and technical progress reported in the scientific literature, and consider the outputs of organisations like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Indeed, following the adoption of OECD Guidelines 420, 423 and 424, and the deletion of the less refined OECD Guideline 401, no project licence authorities for lethal testing using the OECD 401 Guideline have been granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Summary details of acute lethal toxicity tests undertaken are published in annual statistics. The last such publication is entitled Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2002 (CM 5886) and is available in the Library.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 326W, on motoring offences, if he will list the non-notifiable offences included under offence code 825/90; and how many non-notifiable offences were counted towards the offences brought to justice target in 2003–04. [180136]

Paul Goggins: The table describes the non-notifiable offences included within Home Office offence code 825/90.

The offence code 825/90 (miscellaneous motoring offences), which was included in the 2003–04 offences brought to justice targets for each CJS area, includes the non-notifiable offences described in the table alongside the notifiable offence "tampering with motor vehicles" (Road Traffic Act 1988 S.25). From April 2004 onwards this notifiable offence has been given a separate code and the remaining non-notifiable offences within 825/90

have been excluded from the 2004–05 offences brought to justice targets.

It is not possible to give a separate figure for the number of non-notifiable offences within the 825/90 code that were counted towards the offences brought to justice target, as in 2003–04 they could not be separated from the notifiable offence of tampering with motor vehicles. The latest available provisional figures show that an estimated 50,500 825/90 offences counted towards the total number of 1.1 million offences brought to justice in England and Wales during 2003.

Non-notifiable offences included under Home Office offence code 825/90 during 2003–04

Legislation	*Brief description of offence*
Road Traffic (Foreign Vehicles) Act 1972 Sec 3(1)(*a*) and (*b*)	Driving a goods vehicle while a prohibition operative
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 123(4)	Giving paid instruction when not a registered or licensed person
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 13(1)	Promoting or taking part in an unauthorised rally
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 135(2)	Falsely claiming to be a registered driving instructor
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 165(3)	Failing to produce goods vehicle plating or test certificate
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 17(2), 18(4)	Offences in connection with selling etc. protective headgear
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 172(3), 172(4)	Person keeping vehicle failing to give driver's name and address on demand
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 177	Falsely representing to be a vehicle testing examiner
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 34 (1)	Driving on Common Land
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 71 (1)	Driving a goods vehicle while a prohibitive operative
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 75(5)	Selling etc. unroadworthy vehicle or trailer
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 76(1) and (3)	Fitting or selling defective or unsuitable vehicle parts
Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 83	Selling etc. wrongly made tail lamps or reflectors
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sch 12 para 3(5)	Removal of/interference with fixed penalty notice
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sec 104	Interference with immobilisation device
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sec 112(4)	Failing to give information as to identity of driver
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sec 117	Wrongful use of disabled person's badge
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sec 35A(2)	Interference with apparatus for collecting charges
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sec 47(1)	Offences by non-drivers against parking place orders
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Sec 47(3)	Tampering with parking meter with intent to defraud
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regs 1986 Reg 89	Leaving trailer at rest without being braked
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regs 1986, Reg 22	Trailer not equipped with suitable/sufficient spring
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regs 1986, Reg 33	Breaches of regs specifically related to land tractors' mirrors
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regs 1986, Reg 83	Various trailer offences
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regs 1986, Reg 86	Towing vehicle with too long a tow rope
Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regs 1971 Reg 45b	Fail to produce vehicle for weighing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the review of road traffic offences to be published; and if he will make a statement on the reasons for the delay in its publication. [180984]

Caroline Flint: The review of road traffic offences is nearing completion. However there are a number of difficult issues under consideration before a consultation paper can be published. The Government are working towards publication at the earliest opportunity.

Motorway Patrols

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce civilian traffic officers in patrolling motorways. [181312]

Caroline Flint: Home Office and Department for Transport Ministers have agreed that the Highways Agency should appoint its own civilian traffic officers who will relieve the police of certain responsibilities with regard to the management of accidents and other major incidents on the motorways. Provision for the statutory powers required for them to exercise the full range of their proposed functions is made in the Traffic Management Bill currently before Parliament. Responsibility for law enforcement and accident investigation will remain with the police.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a risk assessment has been carried out in respect of the National Offender Management Service; and if he will make a statement. [181586]

Paul Goggins: A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is being completed as part of the work to prepare for the planned Correctional Services Bill. Additionally, the National Offender Management Service Change Programme governance has defined and operates a risk management approach for the overall Change Programme.

Police Stations

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have (*a*) closed and (*b*) opened in each police force authority area in each year since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [182091]

Ms Blears: A full survey of police stations in each police authority area, closed or opened from 1992–93 to 2002–03, was undertaken in 2003. I have placed in the Library a copy of the results. Data are not available for years before 1992–93.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Take-up

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of (*a*) pensioners and (*b*) disabled people in East Devon took up their full benefits entitlement in each of the past three years. [182051]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is unavailable.

National estimates of take-up of income-related benefits among the entitled pensioner population can be found in the DWP publication "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up". Copies of the report are available in the Library.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the child support maintenance assessment for Mrs. Julie Hallett of Brixham will be prepared; what the reasons are for the delay; and if he will make a statement. [181648]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. Anthony Steen, dated 7 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the child support maintenance assessment for Mrs. Julie Hallett of Brixham will be prepared; what the reasons are for the delay; and if he will make a statement.

As individual cases are confidential, I will write to you separately about this case. This is in line with paragraph 12, part 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many manual payments have been required in relation to cases under the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency systems. [181741]

Mr. Pond *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. Frank Field, dated 7 July 2004:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many manual payments have been required in relation to cases under the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Child Support Agency systems.

In the year to 31 March 2004 the Agency made 3,376,325 payments through its existing computer system and 496,037 payments through its new computer system. In the same period the Agency made 758 payments manually for cases on the existing computer system and 2,602 payments for cases on the new computer system.

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases relating to clients in Strathkelvin and Bearsden have moved from the old to the new system within the Child Support Agency. [181992]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. John Lyons, dated 7 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases relating to clients in Strathkelvin and Bearsden have moved from the old to the new system within the Child Support Agency. (181992)

I regret that this information is not available. I can however say that nationally, in the year to 31 March 2004, the records for around 326,000 cases moved from the old to the new computer system.

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many manual payments have been made to clients in Strathkelvin and Bearsden as a result of the changeover to the new Child Support Agency system. [181993]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. John Lyons, dated 7 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many manual payments have been made to clients in Strathkelvin & Bearsden as a result of the changeover to the new Child Support Agency system.

I regret that this information is not available. I can however say that nationally, in the year to 31 March 2004, the Agency made 3,376,325 payments through its existing computer system and 496,037 payments through its new computer system. In the same period the Agency made 758 payments manually for cases on the existing computer system and 2602 payments for cases on the new computer system.

Departmental Staff

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department for each year from 1997 to date. [181397]

Maria Eagle: The information is published annually in the Civil Service Statistics. Copies are available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office Civil Service Statistics website at www.civil-service.gov.uk/statistics.

Guarantee Credit/Savings Credit

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 14 June, *Official Report*, column 728W, on pension credit, how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households he expects to be eligible for (i) guarantee credit only, (ii) savings credit and guarantee credit and (iii) savings credit only in *(A)* 2004–05, *(B)* 2005–06, *(C)* 2006–07 and *(D)* 2008–09. [182121]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is not available in precisely the form requested, but projections based on the available data are given in the following tables 1 and 2. The figures include a number of assumptions which will be sensitive to change over the next 10 years.

Table 1: Projection of pensioners eligible for pension credit (households)

	Guarantee element only	*Guarantee element and savings element*	*Savings element only*	*Pension credit*
2004–2005	950,000	1,400,000	1,200,000	3,550,000
2005–2006	850,000	1,500,000	1,250,000	3,650,000
2006–2007	850,000	1,550,000	1,350,000	3,750,000
2007–2008	850,000	1,600,000	1,450,000	3,900,000
2008–2009	900,000	1,650,000	1,550,000	4,050,000

Table 2: Projection of pensioners eligible for pension credit (individuals)

	Guarantee element only	*Guarantee element and savings element*	*Savings element only*	*Pension credit*
2004–2005	1,250,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	4,650,000
2005–2006	1,150,000	1,850,000	1,800,000	4,800,000
2006–2007	1,150,000	1,900,000	1,850,000	4,900,000
2007–2008	1,150,000	1,950,000	2,050,000	5,150,000
2008–2009	1,200,000	2,000,000	2,150,000	5,350,000

Notes:
1. Projections with this breakdown are only available for private households. In addition to pensioners in private households, there are approximately 200,000 pensioners in care homes eligible for pension credit. The figures in Tables 1 and 2 above do not include pensioners in care homes.
2. Estimates for private households and individuals in 2004–05 are based on the Family Resources Survey data for 2002–03 projected forward to 2004–05 to reflect changes in taxes, benefit rates and pensioners' incomes.
3. For projections beyond 2004–05 it has been assumed that pensioners' incomes will rise in line with average earnings; the guarantee credit will be uprated in line with average earnings; and the savings credit threshold will be uprated in line with prices.
4. It has also been assumed that the eligible population will tend to rise in line with the general projected growth of the pensioner population.
5. Projections have been rounded to the nearest 50,000 cases, are subject to a wide margin of error and should be used as broad indications of the likely eligible population only.
6. A pensioner household is defined as single persons aged 60 or over and couples where at least one partner is aged 60 or over. Individuals are single pensioners with eligibility and both partners in a couple with eligibility.

Empty Homes

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182144]

Mr. Pond: The Department for Work and Pensions has no houses on its estate nor is it responsible for any housing.

Ministerial Visits

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list visits made by each Minister in the Department between December 2003 and April 2004, broken down by *(a)* date, *(b)* constituency visited and *(c)* cost. [171563]

Mr. Andrew Smith: The information requested by the hon. Member in relation to dates and constituencies visited is set out as follows. Information in relation to the cost of visits is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Government publish on an annual basis the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Information for 2003–04 is currently being collected and will be published as soon as it is ready.

Right hon. Andrew Smith MP

	Constituencies visited
13 Janua 2004	Bradford South
19 January 2004	Derby South
19 January 2004	West Derbyshire
2 February 2004	Brighton Pavillion
8 March 2004	Oxford West and Abingdon

Right hon. Andrew Smith MP

	Constituencies visited
9 March 2004	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
27 April 2004	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
27 April 2004	Denton and Reddish

Malcolm Wicks MP

	Constituencies visited
3 December 2003	Darlington
3 December 2003	Tyne Bridge
8 January 2004	Northampton North
22 January 2004	Sheffield Central
5 February 2004	Brighton Pavillion

Des Browne MP

	Constituencies visited
4 December 2003	Edinburgh North and Leith
8 December 2003	Wythenshawe and Sale East
11 December 2003	Aberavon
11 December 2003	Bridgend
6 January 2004	Derby South
15 January 2004	Hammersmith and Fulham
20 January 2004	Bromley and Chislehurst
22 January 2004	Sheffield Central
22 January 2004	Sheffield, Brightside
23 January 2004	Paisley North
26 January 2004	Knowsley North and Sefton East
26 January 2004	Bootle
4 February 2004	Leicester South
6 February 2004	Falkirk East
12 February 2004	Greenock and Inverclyde
12 February 2004	Ayr
12 February 2004	Hamilton North and Bellshill
20 February 2004	Dumbarton
26 February 2004	Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber
4 March 2004	Newcastle upon Tyne Central
4 March 2004	Glasgow, Baillieston
5 March 2004	Kilmarnock and Loudoun
26 March 2004	Kilmarnock and Loudoun

Right hon. Jane Kennedy MP

	Constituencies visited
21 April 2004	Harrow East
28 April 2004	Derby South

Chris Pond MP

	Constituencies visited
2 December 2003	Lewisham West
4 December 2003	Huddersfield
4 December 2003	Leeds Central
5 December 2003	Falkirk East
13 January 2004	Selby
22 January 2004	Birmingham Ladywood
26 January 2004	Edinburgh North and Leith
21 April 2004	Gravesham

Maria Eagle MP

	Constituencies visited
9 December 2003	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
16 December 2003	Northampton
14 January 2004	Islington North, London
29 January 2004	Stratford, London
12 February 2004	Ealing Acton and Shepherd's Bush, London
16 February 2004	Edinburgh Central
3 March 2004	Coventry North East
29 April 2004	Manchester Central

Right hon. Baroness Hollis of Heigham

	Constituencies visited
1 December 2003	Lichfield
22 March 2004	Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend
26 April 2004	North Southwark and Bermondsey

New Deal

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in Hyndburn have benefited from the New Deal for Lone Parents since its introduction. [181304]

Jane Kennedy: 1,060 women have started New Deal for Lone Parents in Hyndburn since the beginning of the programme in October 1998, of whom, 640 have gained a job.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the New Deal for Young People on jobseeking for those aged 18 to 24. [181886]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* The New Deal for Young People has helped more that 490,000 young people into work, including 930 in Coventry South. It has helped virtually to eradicate long-term youth unemployment and also helped reduce youth claimant unemployment to its lowest level for 30 years.

In Coventry, South the long-term youth unemployment rate has gone down by 68 per cent. since 1997.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Warrington, South have been helped into work by the New Deal. [182484]

Jane Kennedy: The New Deal has been very successful in helping more than a million people into work including 1,390 in the Warrington, South constituency.

Information on numbers helped into work by each New Deal programme is in the table.

Programme	*People gaining a job*
New Deal for Young People	760
New Deal 25 plus	250
New Deal for Lone Parents	240
New Deal 50 plus	140

Notes:

1. All data is to March 2004, except New Deal 50 plus which is to March 2003.
2. The number of people gaining a job through New Deal for Disabled People and New Deal for Partners is not available at constituency level.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

New Deal Evaluation Database, DWP Information and Analysis Directorate.

Pension Payments

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the facility for pensioners to withdraw their pensions by order book is to be withdrawn; and what alternative arrangements will be made for pensioners who do not wish or are unable to switch to direct payment. [182564]

Mr. Pond: By March 2005 all customers, including pensioners, will have moved from order book to another method of payment. The last pension book foils can be dated no later than 28 February 2005.

We have always recognised that there will be a small number of people who we cannot pay by direct payment. These people will be moved to cheque payment. Our current plan is for a gradual switchover to cheque payment starting in October 2004 through to the end of February 2005.

Pension Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give his Department's estimate of the total Government liability for cases contained in the research into the liabilities for the insolvent pension wind-up Financial Assistance Scheme; and what the estimated total pension shortfall of these cases is. [182577]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are not liable for the losses that people face in their pensions as a result of their pension schemes being wound up underfunded with an insolvent employer. It is not yet possible to give a firm estimate of the full extent of the funding shortfall in such cases, although the £400 million made available by the Government for the Financial Assistance Scheme is expected to provide substantial help to those most affected.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will set out the calculations underlying the regulatory impact assessment for the

Pensions Bill showing an annual saving of £100 million for business as a result of greater investment flexibility under the statutory funding objective. [182134]

Malcolm Wicks: The basis for the estimate that the replacement of the Minimum Funding Requirement could lead to additional investment income of around £100 million a year across all private sector defined benefit pension schemes is set out at paragraphs 4.1.13 to 4.1.15 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment which supports the Pensions Bill.

Private Finance Initiative

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible create the minimum of environmental damage; [181391]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* sustainability and environmental impacts of private finance initiative projects and *(b)* capacity of the private finance initiative process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects; [181392]

(3) what plans he has to make private finance initiative contracts more accountable and transparent in terms of environmental sustainability. [181393]

Mr. Pond: Under the private finance initiative, the estate of the former DSS was transferred to the private sector in April 1998 for the provision of fully serviced accommodation. Following the formation of the Department for Work and Pensions, the estate of the former Employment Service became subject to the same partnership contract in December 2003. Within the contract, there are specific clauses that cover environmental impacts and encourage the private sector partner to develop environmental improvements. The Department's Estates partner, Land Securities Trillium, whose Environmental Management System is accredited to International Standard ISO 14001, works closely with the DWP corporate Sustainable Development Team to identify opportunities for environmental improvements. The Sustainable Development Team contract manages this element of the partnership and continually assesses performance. Regular partnership meetings are held between the Department and Land Securities Trillium to monitor progress.

The partnership approach has enabled innovative measures to be developed—such as the use of spend to save projects designed to improve energy and water efficiency across the estate, and a programme to maximise the recycling of paper waste. Full details of all measures can be found within the annual DWP Sustainable Development Report, to which Land Securities Trillium make a full contribution.

The current Departmental Approvals process includes sustainable development as an overarching commitment that all change programmes need to incorporate into their plans. This will ensure that any future private finance initiatives include sustainable development issues, as PRIME did successfully from the outset.

State Second Pension

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many employees *(a)* contracted out of and *(b)* contracted into the second state pension in 2003–04, broken down by sex and age; and what information he gives older workers on contracting into the state second pension. [181947]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department for Work and Pensions does not specifically provide information to older workers on contracting back into the State Second Pension. It does however publish information leaflets that contain guidance on both State and private pension provision. This guidance stresses how important it is that people regularly review their pension arrangements including decisions about whether to contract in or out, to make sure that they have the income that they need when they retire; and that they should consider taking independent advice if they feel it necessary to do so. Estimates on the number of employees contracted out of and contracted into the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) in 2000–01 (the latest year for which the information is available) broken down by age and gender, are in the following table.

Thousand

Age group	*Number contracted out*		*Number with SERPS membership*	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
Under 20	30	27	467	372
20–29	236	243	1,563	1,302
30–39	238	242	901	825
40–49	165	171	678	900
50–59	105	75	851	742
60 and over	15	—	247	—

Note:
Figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample of the Lifetime Labour Market Database2 and are shown to the nearest thousand.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions' Data Services Unit.

Winter Fuel Payments

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many winter fuel payments have been made in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [181927]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of winter fuel payments made in the last three years, broken down by region is in the table.

	Total for winter		
Region	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Great Britain	11,201,900	11,348,045	11,389,335
England	9,585,755	9,709,940	9,745,255
North East	513,460	516,755	516,740
North West	1,336,465	1,349,470	1,354,445
Yorkshire and the Humber	982,460	992,680	995,750
East Midlands	831,630	847,435	855,095
West Midlands	1,043,580	1,059,210	1,066,130
East of England	1,090,720	1,110,685	1,119,655
London	1,080,460	1,082,290	1,071,220
South East	1,594,805	1,619,275	1,626,490
South West	1,112,180	1,132,140	1,139,730
Wales	619,720	629,025	632,475
Scotland	996,420	1,009,080	1,011,605

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

3. Please note that the figures for 2003–04 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payments made in late payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are to men aged 60.

Source:
IAD Information Centre, 100 per cent. data.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Iraq

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the oil output in Iraq was being metered up to the point of the dissolution of the Coalition Provisional Authority. [181758]

Mr. Rammell: When the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) took office there were no functioning meters in the Iraqi oil system. Successive UK members of the CPA oil team had been pressing for meters to be installed as a matter of urgency, but as of 28 June—when the CPA dissolved—the issue remained outstanding. However, oil exports, either by pipeline to Ceyhan in Turkey or by tanker through the Arabian Gulf, are metered as they pass into the receiving tanks.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has pledged to women's organisations operating in Iraq; and how much has been distributed since March 2003. [181081]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has pledged £100,000 for Women and Youth Good Governance Projects.

In addition, the FCO has pledged and distributed £30,000 to the Iraqi Refugee Aid Council for a women's project in Sadr city, and £11,000 (US$20,000) for two projects by the Assyrian Women's Union.

The FCO also supported an Iraqi women's conference, held successfully in Cairo during June.

The Department for International Development also provides funding for women's projects in Iraq.

Civic Education

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what information he has about civic education programmes under way and planned to encourage women to participate in future democratic elections in Iraq; and whether his Department is *(a)* funding and *(b)* planning to fund such programmes; [181542]

(2) what programmes are being developed by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq to promote women's human rights; and whether his Department is giving support in this area. [181575]

Mr. Rammell: Women's rights in Iraq have been furthered by the creation of a Minister of State for Women's Affairs in the Interim Iraqi Government, and by the passing of an electoral law designed to achieve the goal of one-quarter representation by women in the elected Transitional National Assembly. Six out of 31 Ministers and seven out of 28 Deputy Ministers in the new Interim Iraqi Government are women.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working closely with the Department for International Development to promote women's rights in Iraq, and has funded a number of projects involving women and women's groups across Iraq. For a complete list of projects funded by the FCO I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) today (UIN 181081).

UN support has also come from UNIFEM, which has engaged in numerous projects in Iraq, including workshops and conferences for women.

Chechnya

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on recent events in Chechnya. [180775]

Mr. Rammell: The situation in Chechnya remains of serious concern. The assassination of President Kadyrov in May and the recent attacks in neighbouring Ingushetia further demonstrate the fragility of the security situation there.

We have unequivocally condemned both attacks in which many innocent civilians were killed. Terrorism and violence are not the way to solve Chechnya's problems.

We have noted statements by the Russian authorities renewing their commitment to Chechen institutions and reconstruction. The election of a successor to President Kadyrov will be a new opportunity to build up the political process in Chechnya and aid efforts to bring stability to the Republic.

Coca Survey

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the results of the United Nations 2004 coca survey in *(a)* Colombia, *(b)* Peru and *(c)* Bolivia; and what changes have taken place in the location of coca cultivation in each country. [181543]

Mr. Rammell: The United Nations 2004 coca surveys for Colombia, Peru and Bolivia show that the total area in the three countries that is used for coca production fell by 11 per cent. in 2003 compared to 2002. In Colombia, the area under cultivation is shown to have fallen by 16 per cent. However, it is difficult to judge what impact these falls in the area cultivated may have had on the overall production of cocaine because, as the surveys point out, it is unclear whether crop yields per hectare are rising or falling.

There has been little change in the location of coca cultivation in Peru. In Colombia, cultivation has fallen

markedly in Putumayo and Guivare departments but risen in Narino and Meta departments. In Bolivia cultivation has fallen in the Chapare area but has seen an increase in the Yungas of La Paz.

Constitutional Treaty

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which amendments tabled by the *(a)* Italian and *(b)* Irish presidencies of the EU to the draft EU Constitutional Treaty represented the UK Government's proposed changes to the Treaty. [181496]

Mr. Straw *[holding answer 29 June 2004]:* At the European Council on 18 June, the Government supported the agreement on the amendments to the Convention's draft EU Constitutional Treaty text as set out in documents CIG 81/04 and CIG 85/04 (copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House). All other proposals for amendments made by either the Italian or Irish Presidency during the Intergovermental Conference (IGC) were superseded.

In total, the annexes cover amendments on 80 different areas in the Treaty. The UK advocated the amendments on 39 of the 80 areas covered. Examples range from criminal law, tax and social security to the provisions on animal welfare and the solidarity clause. These amendments were either initiated by the UK, initiated jointly with other member states, or pushed by other member states and supported by us. Many do not of course fit neatly into just one of these categories. In some areas, we would have liked the amendments to have gone further than those we eventually secured (e.g. team Presidencies or the European Foreign Minister). These were not however UK "red lines".

We remained neutral on 38 areas where others had pushed for amendments which were of no substantive concern to us (although we had initially held reservations on some—e.g. social policy).

In the remaining three areas, we originally opposed the amendments, but we secured changes at the European Council which enabled us to accept them (provisions for member states wanting to adopt the Euro, provisions of the Stability and Growth pact and provisions for the Union's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights).

A detailed analysis and chart of the changes has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total floor space was of buildings owned or leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year from 1997. [181234]

Mr. Rammell: The total floor space in Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) buildings occupied by the FCO in each year from 1997 is:

	Square metres
Main FCO Building, King Charles Street	39,000
Old Admiralty Building	13,000
1 Carlton Gardens	2,500
Lancaster House	3,400
Albert Embankment (from 2000 only shared with the Home Office)	1,300
Apollo House, Croydon	3,100
Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes	22,000
Wiston House (Wilton Park Agency)	2,500
Total	86,800

The FCO also previously occupied the following buildings:

	Square metres
1 Palace Street	17,200
20 Victoria Street	1,300
Cromwell House	2,500
1 Cleveland Row	400

These have been-given up following the refurbishment and reoccupation of the Old Admiralty Building in 2001.

Departmental Water Consumption

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes there have been in water consumption by his Department in each year from 1997 to date. [181241]

Mr. Rammell: Data from financial years 1997–98 and 1998–99 could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Since 1999–2000, water consumption in our two London Offices has declined steadily from 12.5 cubic metres per person per year in 1999–2000 to 8.1 cubic metres per person in 2003–04.

Hanslope Park is a mixed use site, which includes light industrial as well as office use, so we would expect higher consumption. It has varied between 26.48 cubic metres per person in 2001–02 and 44.3 cubic metres per person in 2003–04. The latter was due in part to a major leak which was difficult to locate but has now been repaired. Consumption has since fallen back.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases against his Department, the agencies for which it is responsible and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii)

applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [181472]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows.

Cases brought to employment tribunals

	Equal pay	Sex discrimination	Tribunal Race discrimination	Disability discrimination	Unfair dismissal
1998	—	1	1	—	2
1999	—	—	3	—	1
2000	—	3	4	2	3
2001	—	—	—	2	3
2002	1	2	—	—	6
2003	—	1	1	—	5
2004	—	2	1	—	—

£

	Costs				
	Awarded against FCO	Awarded against applicants	Cases settled	Litigation	Total cost per year
1998	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	—	10,000.00
1999	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	—	2,000.00
2000	0.00	0.00	13,360.00	26,905.54	40,265.54
2001	0.00	0.00	500.00	107,743.74	108,243.74
2002	0.00	0.00	38,750.00	56,244.05	94,994.05
2003	0.00	0.00	500.00	56,122.71	56,622.71
2004	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,483.71	19,483.71

The information on cases settled prior to 1998 and information on litigation costs prior to 2000 could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

PFI Projects

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to make private finance initiative contracts for which he is responsible more accountable and transparent in terms of environmental sustainability. [181230]

Mr. Rammell: Environmental criteria are considered when undertaking private finance initiative (PFI) projects in the same way as they are for other major contracts within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). We operate in line with existing guidance on the use of environmental considerations in PFI contracts issued by the Office of Government Commerce, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Transport and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2002. The FCO has no current project undergoing procurement using the PFI.

Sustainable Development (Government Estate)

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by his Department to review arrangements for public reporting of sustainable development impacts under the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181237]

Mr. Rammell: We reviewed our public reporting of sustainable development impacts when the first part of the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate was issued in July 2002. We continue to report publicly data against all Sustainable Development in Government targets annually and to respond on our website (www.fco.gov.uk) within four months of targets being published. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is currently in the process of developing a Sustainable Development Strategy that will outline our sustainable development objectives for the next three years. The performance of the FCO Estate against sustainable development targets will be covered as part of our reporting against this strategy.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements his Department has made to report publicly on key sustainable development impacts pursuant to the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181238]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office reports annually to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on key sustainable development impacts covered by the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. This material is made public as part of the Sustainable Development in Government annual report published by the Sustainable Development Unit at Defra. In addition we publicly respond on our website (www.fco.gov.uk) within four months of new Sustainable Development in Government targets being published.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes there have been in *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* single occupancy car commuting in his Department against the baseline year, as set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181239]

Mr. Rammell: We are still in the process of collating 2003–04 data on our road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions. This will be made publicly available in the autumn as part of the Sustainable Development in Government report published by Defra.

Single occupancy car commuting remains unchanged from the baseline year.

Turkmenistan

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the United Kingdom's relations with Turkmenistan. [181078]

Mr. Rammell: The UK's relationship with Turkmenistan covers a number of areas. We continue to run a Chevening Scholarship programme; offer support to public access internet centres, English resource centres and to cultural projects, including the production of a directory aimed at raising international awareness of Turkmen traditions and culture. There are two UK-registered companies operating oilfields in Turkmenistan and we continue to support anti-narcotics measures with an inspection shed on the Afghan border currently nearing completion.

However, the UK remains seriously concerned at the human rights situation in Turkmenistan. The UK, in conjunction with the EU, US and like-minded partners, continues to pursue a critical dialogue with the Turkmen Government on human rights issues. We welcomed positive recent decrees, including on the registration of religious minorities; the decriminalising of unregistered religious minority activity and we have also welcomed the indication that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will have limited access to prisons. However, it is important that these positive intentions are matched by positive actions. We will continue to press for ICRC access to all prisoners, the repeal of restrictive legislation such as criminalisation of non-registered NGO activity, and we will continue to lobby on individual cases.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Turkmenistan regarding human rights in that country. [181079]

Mr. Rammell: We remain seriously concerned about human rights in Turkmenistan, including the plight of those convicted following the reported coup attempt in November 2002; the harassment of Turkmen opposition figures in exile; the tight controls over the individual freedoms of all Turkmen citizens; the apparent degradation of the education system; the comprehensive restrictions on freedom of expression; and increased evidence of state-sponsored ethnic discrimination. In their submission to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Spring 2004, Human Rights Watch described Turkmenistan as one of the most repressive countries in the world.

The United Kingdom actively supported the tabling and adoption of country resolutions at the 59th and 60th Sessions of the UN Committee on Human Rights (UNCHR) and a further country resolution at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. These welcomed the limited positive steps taken by the Turkmen Government but also highlighted the many outstanding areas of concern. We have also lobbied the Turkmen Government on for example, International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) access to prisoners, reported discrimination against holders of foreign qualifications and religious freedoms as well as individual cases, including Rahim Esenov, a 78-year-old author arrested in February 2004 for allegedly criticising the regime. Mr. Esenov was subsequently released in March.

Following this sustained international pressure, including from the United Kingdom, there are small indications that the Turkmen Government are willing to engage in dialogue on human rights issues. The Turkmen Government organised in October 2003 a regional conflict prevention forum in Ashgabat under UN auspices. Turkmenistan sent a high level delegation, headed by the Foreign Minister, to Brussels for the EC/Turkmenistan Joint Committee meeting in January 2004. In March the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights sent a needs assessment mission to Ashgabat to help its preparation of reports to UN Treaty bodies.

The restrictive recent legislation on exit visas and the criminalisation of non-registered religious minority activity have been repealed; the Baha'is and the Seventh Day Adventists have been able to register as religious minorities and several Jehovah's Witness conscientious objectors, including Kurban Zakirov have been released.

But much more remains to be done. We will continue to monitor the implementation of recent positive decrees and to push for further progress on human rights issues.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 July 2004

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Solicitor-General what the whole time equivalent staff resources of the Serious Fraud Office were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [182100]

The Solicitor-General: There were 166 whole time permanent equivalent staff as at 1 April 1997 and 44 non permanent members of staff.

There was an average of 195 whole time permanent equivalent staff in 2001 and 15 non permanent members of staff.

There are 247.5 whole time permanent equivalent staff as at 6 July 2004 and there are 29 non permanent members of staff.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Curry Commission Report

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public funding has been supplied to the *(a)* Assured Food Standards, *(b)* Food Chain Centre, *(c)* English Farming and Food Partnerships, *(d)* Red Meat Industry Forum, *(e)* Food from Britain, *(f)* Cereals Industry Forum, *(g)* CST Recorded Ram Marketing Group Ltd., *(h)* Farmcare, *(i)* First 4 Farming, *(j)* IGD, *(k)* Meadow Quality, *(l)* Plunkett Foundation, *(m)* Rural Energy and *(n)* UK Sire Services Ltd. to support project work recommended by the Curry Commission Report; what goals were set for each project; and what outcomes were achieved. [179978]

Alun Michael: The public funding supplied to each of these bodies, the goals set for each project and the outcomes achieved are set out in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House. For projects funded under grant schemes, the awarded amount is match-funded by the organisation.

Foot and Mouth

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department is withholding from businesses in connection with charges arising from the provision of goods, services and works carried out during the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001. [180793]

Alun Michael: The Department is disputing £53.3 million of charges from contractors arising from the provision of goods, services and works during the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001. The Department has been advised that the retention is justified fully on any or all legal, accounting and quantum grounds including, but not limited to, the inability of some contractors to provide any substantiating evidence in support of their charges; some contractors seeking payment on the basis of incorrect contractual rates; and claims being made involving duplicate charges or based on other accounting errors.

Mercury

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the British Dental Association about the use of fillings containing mercury. [181670]

Alun Michael: The Department issued a consultation paper in May 2003 which included information from the British Dental Association and received a response from the British Dental Association to that consultation paper. The consultation paper and a summary of the responses can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/crematoria/index.htm . The BDA will also be consulted on the follow-up consultation paper.

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many crematoria were involved in the monitoring carried out by the Department designed to establish mercury levels emitted into the atmosphere after cremation. [181680]

Alun Michael: The monitoring referred to was undertaken in 2000 by AEA Technology on behalf of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities. Three crematoria were involved, which were chosen to include one of each of the three main types of cremators currently in use in the UK and also to represent different types of location.

Milk Price

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with farming organisations about the farm gate price of milk. [182049]

Alun Michael: Ministers frequently meet with farming representatives for discussions which include the farm gate price of milk. Farming organisations are also represented on the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, chaired by my noble Friend Lord Whitty, which meets quarterly.

The forum provides a framework in which all within the dairy supply chain, can come together to discuss the challenges facing the sector and develop collaborative solutions to improve the efficiency and promote the sustainable development of the sector. It does not discuss price negotiations, which are a private commercial matter between farmers and purchasers. However, the work of the forum and its various subgroups should help address some of the underlying causes of low farm gate prices.

Vital Villages Programme

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether a value-for-cost study has been carried out on the Vital Villages programme; [181985]

(2) when the budget for the grants in the Vital Villages initiative will end; [181986]

(3) how many parishes have received a grant from the Vital Villages programme to help produce an action plan outlining the needs of the community; [181987]

(4) how much has been distributed through grants in the Vital Villages initiative; [181988]

(5) if she will replace the Vital Villages programme; and if she will make a statement. [181989]

Alun Michael: The Countryside Agency's Vital Villages programme was established in 2001. It was always intended as a time-limited means of exploring what would best enable parishes to identify their service needs and have a greater say in their own affairs. The total funding distributed from the start of the Vital Villages programme in 2001 until April 2004 is in excess of £40 million, including an investment of £14 million this year. The agency has met its three-year target and the programme is now closed to new applicants. From April 2001 to date, over 1,044 parishes have received funding for their parish plans. The programme was closed to new applications at the end of March 2004 but the agency will honour all existing commitments, which run until 31 March 2006. The emphasis in the programme from now on will be on sharing the best practice learned from successful projects as widely as possible and encouraging others to take up the ideas. In addition, the agency has commissioned an independent quantitative and qualitative evaluation to measure the impact of the programme.

Announcements about any successor to Vital Villages will be made before the programme ends. With a variety of partners, we are considering how best to promote the lessons of the programme and support rural communities that need assistance through mainstream programmes.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK aid to Burundi is spent on assisting refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo; what discussions he has had with the Burundi Government on assisting refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo; and what plans he has to deliver emergency aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo refugees in northern Burundi. [182423]

Hilary Benn: A DFID assessment mission visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi between 22 and 29 June and is liaising with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies inter alia to look at support needs for DRC refugees in Burundi. DFID's assessment is that to date, agencies based in Burundi such as International Rescue Committee, Medecins Sans Frontieres and GTZ have mounted an effective response to the influx from DRC. Resourcing of these operations appears to be covered, although we have made it clear that DFID is ready to consider supplementary requests for support on an urgent basis.

The team also discussed the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees proposal to develop an inter-agency contingency plan to cover any potential larger influx from Eastern DRC. DFID keeps in close contact with the Government of Burundi and the UN Mission in Burundi (ONUB) on the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons and their support needs.

In parallel, DFID has contributed £500,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) under the 2004 UN Consolidated Appeal Process (UNCAP) for Burundi, to support the repatriation of refugees and reintegration of returnees to Burundi during the period March to December 2004.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the loss of humanitarian aid and property in the Democratic Republic of Congo during recent looting. [182428]

Hilary Benn: Two DFID staff visited parts of eastern DRC in late June. They reported that in some areas a large amount of NGO equipment, especially communications, had been lost during recent periods of unrest.

DFID is seeking ways to provide quick-disbursing support to enable NGOs to respond rapidly to meet the emerging needs of the vulnerable populations in eastern DRC. This will depend on NGO requirements, but could include increased air services (light aircraft are often the most effective and secure means of travel in much of DRC) and help to replace looted NGO communications equipment and vehicles.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many cases against his Department, the agencies for which it is responsible and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [181475]

Hilary Benn: The following table outlines the number of cases DFID has defended at tribunals each year since 1997. Where available, details are provided on the type of employment tribunal, the cost of settlement and the cost of contesting the claims.

	Number of tribunal cases started that year	*Case type*	*Ruling*	*Cost settling claim*	*Total cost of litigation*
1997	1	Not available	In favour of DFID	None	Not available
1998	1	Unfair dismissal	In favour of DFID	None	Not available
1999	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Number of tribunal cases started that year	Case type	Ruling	Cost settling claim	Total cost of litigation
2000	1[1]	Unfair dismissal	In favour of DFID	None	£20,000 approximately
2001	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] Closed in 2003.

DFID records its overall spend on legal advice from the HM Treasury Solicitor/Scottish Executive. However, costs of each individual piece of litigation are not recorded separately. The amount for the year 2000 case was an internal DFID estimate.

In addition to the above details, there have been nine further cases where legal action was started. In six of these cases, settlement was reached. In the other three cases, the Civil Service Appeal Board found in favour of DFID.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister in his Department on official departmental business. [181872]

Hilary Benn: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government has published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government has also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Committees

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 29 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 168W, if he will make a further statement on the reasons *(a)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* he are not on the Ministerial Sub-committee on Relations with the USA. [182879]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to my previous answer.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Broadband

14. **Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations she has received about difficulties in accessing broadband technology in rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [182691]

Mr. Timms: The Department has received over 100 items of correspondence on this subject since January. The proportion of rural households within reach of a broadband service is rising quickly, and there is now a realistic prospect that every community in the country will have broadband by the end of next year. The joint DTI-Defra rural broadband unit has carried out important work in this area, including arranging broadband demonstrations at seven county shows over this month and last month.

Company Directors (Remuneration)

15. **Mrs. Ann Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will take steps to stop the practice of continuing to reward company directors who fail to fulfil their duties. [182692]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Directors' remuneration is a matter for companies and their shareholders.

It is provision of the Combined Code that remuneration committees should avoid rewarding poor performance: best practice guidance issued by the Association of British Insurers, the National Association of Pension Funds and the Confederation of British Industry, also makes it clear that this is unacceptable.

In 2002, the Government introduced the Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 25 February, the full impact of the 2002 Regulations cannot be measured after one year alone. For this reason, the Department has commissioned detailed monitoring of compliance with the Regulations for this year's reporting season.

I will make an announcement about this exercise in due course.

Exports (China)

16. **Kali Mountford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what extra help the Government will provide to industries to co-operate through the supply chain to export to China. [182693]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: UK companies have access to the full range of UK Trade and Investment's services in the UK to help them win business in China along with the Embassy and Consular network across China. On supply chains the DTI has provided funding for the Manufacturing Advisory Service and the Industry Forum schemes to help industry work better with their supply chains.

Women Managers

17. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of women in managerial positions in businesses. [182694]

Jacqui Smith: Some 30 per cent. of managers are female compared with 18 per cent. in 1998, and in the public sector, women account for more than half of managers. A major barrier for women reaching the top is balancing work and family responsibilities, and the introduction of the new rights for working parents will go a long way to help with this. As part of our partnership relationship with business, I have also led a series of roundtables with several FTSE 100 companies to help women move into senior positions and to increase diversity in the UK boardrooms.

Software Patents

18. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions are being held by the Department with EU partners on software patents. [182695]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Agreement was reached by the Council of Ministers on 18 May 2004. The proposal will now return to the European Parliament under the normal procedure.

Trade Balance

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which three states the UK has the largest positive trade balance. [182696]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2003, the three countries in which the UK had the largest positive balance of trade in goods were the USA at £6.2 billion, Ireland at £2.4 billion, and Saudi Arabia at £1.1 billion.

Company Boards (Diversity)

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps she has taken to increase the diversity of company boards. [182680]

Ms Hewitt: Appointments to company boards are a matter for companies and shareholders.

Following the publication of the Higgs and Tyson reports, and the "Brighter Boards" booklet last year, my Department organised a series of roundtable meetings to raise awareness about the case for greater diversity on boards and to gather examples of good practice.

We are currently consulting the Financial Reporting Council and a range of business and other organisations on how best to build on these initiatives and will be making an announcement later in the year.

Economic Statistics (Merseyside)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures her Department intends to take to increase economic activity in people aged *(a)* 16 to 19 years and *(b)* over 50 years in Merseyside. [177919]

Jacqui Smith: 16 to 19-year-olds benefit from the current Merseyside Objective Programme which improves their employability and transferable skills through Lifelong Learning provision. Measures under this programme currently in place include Action for Employment, Promoting Social Inclusion for Access to the Labour Market and Lifelong Learning Young People and Adults.

For those in the 50 plus bracket, apart from benefiting from many of the measures set out in the Merseyside Objective 1, priority 2 programme they are supported by a number of Jobcentre Plus initiatives including the newly piloted 50 plus outreach project, New Deal 50 plus and a 50 plus jobsfair.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures her Department has taken to ensure that women in science, engineering and technology are able to return to work after a career break. [180069]

Ms Hewitt: The Government have been looking at the barriers all women face in returning to work following a career break, and has introduced a range of measures to support those women who wish to return to employment.

This includes the introduction of the National Childcare Strategy in 1998 to provide accessible, affordable and quality child care for all children, and Government funded schemes to support substantial expansion in child care provision. The Government are also providing substantial help (approaching £2 million a day) through the tax credit system. In April 2003 the Government introduced a package of new measures to enable new parents to request flexible working and their employers have a statutory duty to consider their requests seriously. More recently, I announced that the Government are opening a debate with parents and employers about the issue of choice in balancing work and family life to hear directly from employers and parents with a view to reviewing the existing measures in 2006.

For women returning specifically to science, engineering and technology careers, DTI is also making available £500,000 per annum for the Resource Centre for Women in SET to develop a dedicated returners package. Full details of the package will be published when the centre is launched on 16 September. This will address both the supply and demand side. The Resource Centre contract specifies providing a range of services to employers including developing a kite marking or award for gender equality HR practices (work life balance procedures; returners re-entry schemes; mentoring schemes etc.), employer networking events and good practice guides.

Fireworks

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reason the period of three weeks was chosen for unlicensed firework sales before 5 November in the proposed 2004 Firework Regulations. [182429]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The traditional sale period for fireworks—voluntarily agreed by the industry and retailers since 1979—is approximately three weeks before and a few days after 5 November. Increasingly,

certain retailers have been breaking with this tradition and supplying a week or two before and/or after this period.

It is therefore the intention of the Department, as set out in the consultation document, to simply enshrine this voluntary period of supply in law.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement as to the reasons why the proposed 2004 Firework Regulations will allow firework sales to continue without licensing at certain times of the year. [182430]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As explained in the consultation document, it was the intention of my Department to restrict the sale of fireworks to defined periods—that is—traditional and multi-cultural times of use. With the benefit of preliminary discussions with both retailer representatives and the fireworks industry, we formulated what we considered to be the least bureaucratic way to achieve this aim, that is, to require those that supply all year round to obtain a licence—having the indirect effect of restricting the sale periods for those that do not hold a licence.

Media Diversity

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what her policy is on public access to a diverse media, with particular reference to small circulation newspapers and magazines. [182344]

Jacqui Smith: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recognises the contribution made by small circulation newspapers and magazines to a diverse media. However, within the legislative and regulatory framework under which they are required to operate, production of newspapers and magazines is a commercial matter for the companies concerned.

North West Development Agency

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from how many projects to which it has committed funding the North West Development Agency has withdrawn since 1 April 2003 in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Greater Manchester. [181553]

Jacqui Smith: The North West Development Agency has not withdrawn funding from any scheme for which it is contractually committed.

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry by what amount the forward funding commitments of the North West Development Agency have had to be cut to meet budgetary constraints. [181554]

Jacqui Smith: The North West Development Agency has developed a detailed three year strategic investment plan which honours all legally committed contracts.

Pension Disputes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many days she estimates have been lost to strikes in each of the last five years as a result of disputes over changes to pension schemes. [181024]

Mr. Sutcliffe: While official statistics classify industrial action by the main cause of the dispute concerned, they do not identify disputes over pensions schemes as a separate category within that classification. It is therefore not possible to give an estimate for days lost caused by disputes over pension schemes or changes to those schemes. Most disputes of this nature are likely to be classified within the broad category of disputes over "extra wage and fringe benefits". The figures for days lost in that category for the last five years are given as follows:

Number of days lost where the main cause is "extra wage and fringe benefits" in all industries and services

	Thousand
1999	8.0
2000	7.8
2001	2.6
2002	137.0
2003	139.8

Post Office Urban Reinvention Programme

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what sums have been earmarked to compensate sub-postmasters leaving the business in Scotland under the urban reinvention programme; [182982]

(2) what sums have been earmarked to assist with financing improvements to upgrade retained offices in Scotland under the urban reinvention programme. [182983]

Mr. Timms: There is no predetermined list of closures and, therefore, no allocation of funds ring-fenced for Scotland or for any other part of the United Kingdom.

Nationally up to £180 million has been allocated to compensate sub-postmasters leaving the business under the urban reinvention programme; and up to £30 million has been allocated to fund investment grants.

Tax (Unleaded Petrol)

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total tax payable on the average pump price of a litre of unleaded petrol was on 17 June. [182981]

Mr. Timms: As at 14 June 2004, the closest date for which data is available, the total tax payable on a litre of Ultra Low Sulphur Petrol was 59.2 p/litre. This consisted of duty at 47.1 p/litre and VAT of 12.1 p/litre. The average pump price on that day was 81.5 p/litre.

Waste Electrical Equipment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what representations she has received regarding the implementation of the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations with respect to the disposal of non-household light fittings; [182152]

(2) what the outcome was of her Department's consultation on the implementation of the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations with respect to the disposal of non-household light fittings; [182153]

(3) if she will implement the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive with respect to non-household light fittings so that the developer, or equivalent, rather than the producer is responsible for disposal; and if she will make a statement. [182154]

Mr. Timms: The Department has received a number of representations from the lighting industry about the implementation of Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment in relation to lighting products (the WEEE Directive). The Lighting Industry Federation has met officials on several occasions and I met representatives of the Federation and other lighting producers on 6 July to discuss these matters further.

The Department intends to publish shortly draft implementing Regulations for the WEEE Directive, together with accompanying guidance, for public consultation. This will take account of the responses from stakeholders to its previous consultation, between 26 November 2003 to 1 March 2004, on a package of implementation proposals for the WEEE Directive. The 219 responses to that consultation included three which referred to lighting products. A summary of the responses to that consultation may be viewed on the DTI's WEEE web page at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/WEEE_and_ROHS_Executive_Summary.pdf

The Government expects to implement the WEEE Directive, in the light of amending Directive 2003/108/EC, to make producers supplying to non-household users responsible for the costs of end-of-life management of "historic" waste from equipment placed on the market before 13 August 2005 in instances where they are supplying equivalent replacement products. If the user is not buying replacement products, he will have that responsibility. For "new" waste from equipment placed on the market after 13 August 2005, the Government will expect producers supplying to non-household users and those users in future to reach agreement on allocation or apportionment of the end-of-life management costs as part of their commercial negotiation; and where this is not possible, the responsibility for end-of-life management costs will lie with the producer.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

People Trafficking

24. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Minister for Women, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for International Development regarding the trafficking of women and girls for forced prostitution in Kosovo. [182673]

Jacqui Smith: I fully support the work of my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, to support the development of an effective justice system in Kosovo that operates in accordance with international standards. This is an essential step in improving human rights and preventing abuses such as human trafficking. We are also working with our partners in NATO and the UN to establish robust, preventative policies and to ensure that anyone accused of trafficking will face justice.

Iraq

25. **Joan Ruddock:** To ask the Minister for Women, what support the Government is giving to the Iraqi Women's Higher Council. [182674]

Ms Hewitt: The Iraqi Women's Higher Council (IWHC) was the first of a number of women's organisations to evolve over the last year. Following a scoping study of the needs of new, emerging women's NGOs in Iraq, commissioned by DFID earlier this year, the UK is now supporting the development of a diverse NGO sector. We believe this will provide a strong and sustainable base for ensuring women's voices are heard, and women play a full part in the future of their nation. Currently we are helping to increase women's organisations' influence in national policy and the political process through both the Civil Society Support Fund and the Political Participation Fund.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

26. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Minister for Women, if she will make a statement on progress towards a commission for equality and human rights. [182675]

Jacqui Smith: We published the White Paper "Fairness for All: A New Commission for Equality and Human Rights" on 12 May, setting out our vision for the new Commission and so place equality and human rights at the heart of society. We shall be consulting on the White Paper until 6 August.

Sporting Clubs

27. **Mr. David Stewart:** To ask the Minister for Women, what plans she has to propose legislation to outlaw discrimination against women in sporting clubs. [182676]

Jacqui Smith: The Government supports the Private Member's Bill put forward by David Wright which would outlaw sex discrimination by mixed-sex private clubs, including sporting clubs, against members, applicants and guests. Sports clubs that are open to the public are already subject to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 which makes such discrimination unlawful.

Violence Against Women

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Minister for Women what recent discussions she has had regarding the Government's commitment to developing a national strategy to eliminate all forms of violence against women in the UK. [182549]

Ms Hewitt: The Ministers for Women work closely with the Home Office and are active members on the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence which leads the implementation of the Government's strategy on domestic violence.

In the UK domestic violence forms a fifth of all violence crimes (Home Office statistics) and this is why the Government has focussed its strategy by introducing the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Bill, which is currently going through Parliament. This will ensure that victims are put at the heart of the criminal justice system. The Bill will help ensure an effective police response when victims report domestic violence, and

make sure that the civil and criminal law offer the maximum protection to all victims to stop the violence recurring.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Minister for Women what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the prevention of violence against women, (ii) the protection of women and their families against violence, (iii) the punishment and rehabilitation of offenders against women and (iv) access to justice and reparation for victims of violence against women; and if she will make a statement. [182550]

Ms Hewitt: I have commissioned research on the economic costs of domestic violence. This quantifies the costs of such violence towards both men and women by analysing its impact on public services, the work place and the economy.

My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, has an extensive programme of work, both research and in practice, to tackle violence against women. In addition he recently announced a £4 million package of services to help victims of sexual offences. This money will be recovered directly from offenders and will be used to help provide community based services including increasing the number of Sexual Assault Referral Centres—a "one stop shop" where victims can receive help and advice.

TRANSPORT

Cyclists

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 934–35W, on pedestrian/cyclist accidents, when he expects information to be available for the number of incidents in 2003. [181686]

Mr. McNulty: The figures for pedestrian/cyclist accidents for 2003 were published on 24 June. The details are set out in the following table:

Pedestrian casualties from accidents between cyclists and pedestrians on footway: GB, 2003

Severity	*Casualties*
Killed	0
Serious	13
Slight	38
All	51

A27 Lewes Bypass

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what year he expects a quieter road surface to be laid on the A27 Lewes bypass. [182876]

Mr. Jamieson: The Government have given a commitment in their 10-Year Transport Plan to reduce traffic noise through a number of measures including the resurfacing of blacktop roads with quieter material when road pavement maintenance is required. The Highways Agency has no plans at present to resurface Lewes bypass as it is structurally in relatively good condition. However the Agency plans to repair rutting in lane one of a 1-kilometre stretch of both the eastbound and westbound carriageways this year. Lower noise surfacing materials will be used on this section only.

British Transport Police

Mrs. Helen Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of *(a)* outstanding debts to the British Transport Police from train operating companies and freight companies and *(b)* the cost in police staff time of accessing such funding. [181329]

Mr. McNulty: *(a)* Four railway companies are withholding the payment of disputed increases in charges for police services arising from a re-allocation of BTP's costs between its customers. The Department has appointed an arbitrator to make recommendations for the resolution of these disputes.

(b) The disputed sums are being held on the BTP Authority's accounts as outstanding debts covered by grant-in-aid by the Department. There is therefore no impact on BTP's budget as the annual budget setting process is settled without provision being made for writing off the debts. The outstanding debts do not therefore impact on BTP's day to day operations.

Caravans (M5)

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on what basis the Highways Agency has decided to restrict the use of the M5 motorway, south of Bristol by caravans; [R] [182447]

(2) what representations he has received from the Highways Agency regarding the imposition of restrictions on caravans using the M5 motorway, south of Bristol. [R] [182449]

Mr. Jamieson: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 7 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 706–07W to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess).

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies have been undertaken by the Highways Agency into traffic flow and leisure vehicles using the M5 motorway, south of Bristol. [R] [182448]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency monitors traffic flow on the M5 motorway, south of Bristol by using traffic counters installed on the Avonmouth Bridge. While these counters are not able to identify leisure vehicles, they are able to distinguish between cars, vans, cars and vans with trailers, buses and coaches and heavy goods vehicles. Output from these counters shows that when the number of cars and vans with trailers increases, the speed of all traffic crossing the bridge drops significantly.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average carbon dioxide emissions per person per journey from London to *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Edinburgh and *(c)* Bristol by (i) air, (ii) rail, (iii) lorry and (iv) car. [182375]

Mr. Jamieson: The estimates of carbon dioxide emissions per person per journey for the various routes are presented in the tables. Emissions from lorries are per tonne carried per journey. Carbon dioxide emissions are based on latest available factors provided by the National Atmospheric Emission Inventory (NAEI).

Aviation

Aviation emissions have been estimated for London to Manchester and London to Edinburgh. There is no London to Bristol service so no aviation CO_2 emission estimates have been made for this route. Aviation emissions are calculated from per passenger kilometre emission factors for short haul journeys and estimates of journey distances. Emission factors are based on passenger loadings of 100 per journey. The data on aviation are taken from DETR's Company GHG Reporting Manual 1999. Short haul refers to journeys of around 500 km.

Rail

Rail emissions are estimates of the exact trains used on each of the routes. The emissions on the London to Bristol route are based on average number of passengers obtained from train operating companies. The average occupancy on the London to Bristol route is 44 per cent. for InterCity 125 trains and 47.4 per cent. for Class 180 Adelante trains. For all other rail routes, emissions are based on average number of passengers calculated from average figures for a selection of intercity and commuter services. These equate to approximately 70 per cent. of total seating capacity and are substantially higher than the average 90 passengers per train assumed for national emission factors.

Coach

Indicative coach CO_2 emissions are based on a combined emission factor for buses and coaches. We do not have disaggregated data for coaches alone. Emissions of CO_2 per passenger per journey are calculated by multiplying the emission factor by the journey distances. It is assumed that each coach carries an average of 40 passengers.

Lorry

Lorry CO_2 emissions are per tonne and have been estimated by multiplying the average tonne per km CO_2 emission factors for lorries by the various journey distances. The average lorry loading factor is 5.29 tonnes based on calculations using data from Transport Statistics Great Britain 2002.

Car

Car CO_2 emissions are per passenger estimates calculated from emission factors and journey distances. Car emissions are based on passenger loadings of 1.56 persons per car.

(a) CO_2 emissions London to Manchester

	CO_2 emissions per passenger per journey (kg)
Aviation	44.9
Rail (Class 90—modern electric train)	5.2
Car	36.6
Coach	4.3
Lorry (per tonne)	60.4

(b) CO_2 emissions London to Edinburgh

	CO_2 emissions per passenger per journey (kg)
Aviation	96.4
Rail (Class 91—modern high speed electric train)	11.9
Car	71.0
Coach	9.2
Lorry (per tonne)	116.9

(c) CO_2 emissions London to Bristol

	CO_2 emissions per passenger per journey (kg)
Aviation	n/a
Rail (InterCity 125 diesel train)	13.5
Rail (Class 180 Adelante—modern diesel train)	10.6
Car	21.3
Coach	3.3
Lorry (per tonne)	35.0

Civil Aviation Authority

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Civil Aviation Authority in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180862]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information relating to the Civil Aviation Authority is tabulated as follows:

	£
(a) Legal	
Financial year ended 31 Mar 2002	
Richards Butler	96,607.86
Total	96,607.86
Financial year ended 31 Mar 2003	
Richards Butler	305,640.90
Total	305,640.90
Financial year ended 31 Mar 2004	
Richards Butler	192,807.39
Simmons, Meglaughlin and Orr	71,377.92
Total	264,185.31
(b) Financial	
Financial year ended 31 Mar 2002	
Airport Innovation	32,066.28
A. S. Biss and Co. Ltd.	88,229.69
Deloitte and Touche	69,000.00
Deloitte and Touche Consulting Grp.	64,100.00
Europe Economics	126,300.00
Fern Logic Ltd.	39,975.00
Hedra Ltd.	81,873.17
IMR Solutions	68,281.73
LECG Ltd.	35,225.92
NERA UK Ltd.	180,923.54
Ove Arup and Partners Intl.	27,946.23
Sonitax Ltd.	32,204.28
Watson Wyatt Partners	55,575.00
Total	901,700.84
Financial year ended 31 Mar 2003	
A. S. Biss and Co. Ltd.	97,329.84
Deloitte and Touche	105,880.00
Deloitte and Touche Consulting Grp.	28,450.00
Ernst and Young	125,072.32
Fern Logic Ltd.	43,320.00
IMR Solutions	51,077.91
Logica UK Ltd.	46,675.00
The Royal Bank of Scotland	273,355.00

	£
Watson Wyatt Partners	54,000.00
Charles Yates	49,600.50
Total	874,760.63
Financial year ended 31 Mar 2004	
A. S. Biss and Co. Ltd.	130,023.95
Deloitte and Touche	121,277.00
Deloitte and Touche Consulting Grp.	69,845.00
Fern Logic Ltd.	32,240.00
The Royal Bank of Scotland	59,127.50
Watson Wyatt Partners	41,632.50
Total	454,145.95
(c) Audit	
Financial year ended 31 March 2002	
Deloitte and Touche	42,000.00
Financial year ended 31 March 2003	
PricewaterhouseCoopers	42,000.00
Financial year ended 31 March 2004	
PricewaterhouseCoopers	52,000.00

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has a statutory responsibility to meet *(a)* the deficit and *(b)* the interest on that deficit incurred by the Civil Aviation Authority. [182395]

Mr. McNulty: Section 8(1) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 lays a duty on the CAA to conduct its affairs so as to recover the costs it incurs, taking one year with another, in discharging its statutory functions. The Secretary of State, therefore, has no statutory responsibility to meet any deficit incurred by the Authority.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each year since 2001. [180885]

Mr. Jamieson: DVLA spent the following:

£million

	2001–2002	*2002–2003*	*2003–2004*
(a) Technical Contracts (IT outsource and development)	47	59	92
Transition and Contract set up costs	0	33	0
Financial Contracts	0	0.2	0.1
(b) Technical IT consultants on call off basis	0	0	0
(c) Financial consultants on call off basis	0	0	0

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180898]

Mr. Jamieson: DVLA made the following payments (including VAT) valued at over £25,000 in the years specified:

(a) Legal services

£000

Organisation	*2001–2002*	*2002–2003*	*2003–2004*
Treasury Solicitors	—	40	—
Veale Wasborough	—	—	149
Denton Wilde Sapte	676	796	68
Bird and Bird	—	173	64
Eversheds	—	—	45

(b) Financial services

£

Organisation	*2001–2002*	*2002–2003*	*2003–2004*
Price Waterhouse Coopers	—	—	129
KPMG	—	196	—

(c) Auditing services

£

Organisation	*2001–2002*	*2002–2003*	*2003–2004*
National Audit Office	45	48	65

Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis, by the Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group in each year since 2001. [180884]

Mr. Jamieson: The central DVO Group spent:

£000

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
(a) Technical and financial	1,252	2,356	2,343
(b) Technical consultants	1,252	2,356	2,248
(c) Financial consultants	0	0	95

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180897]

Mr. Jamieson: With one exception central DVO Group has dealt with Department of Transport officials on legal, financial and auditing matters. The time/cost involved is not recorded or billed.

The exception was in February 2004 when we paid £95,235 to PricewaterhouseCoopers for half the cost of a fitness to trade financial review (category b) of the case for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to gain Trading Fund status.

Driving Standards Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a

call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Driving Standards Agency in each year since 2001. [180882]

Mr. Jamieson: The information is as follows.

(a) Technical contracts (there were no financial contracts)

	£
2001–02	87,316
2002–03	623,171
2003–04	1,047,198

(b) Technical consultants used on a call-off basis

	£
2001–02	87,316
2002–03	247,171
2003–04	418,520

(c) Financial consultants used on a call-off basis:
Nil.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Driving Standards Agency in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180900]

Mr. Jamieson: The information is as follows:
(a) Legal Services

£

Financial year	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Wragge & Co	31,752	—	—
Eversheds	70,280	—	—
DLA	—	39,150	65,100
Beachcroft Wansbroughs	—	45,838	111,877

(b) Financial Services
Nil.
(c) Auditing Services
Nil.

Galileo Satellite

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1247–48W, if he will make a statement on the rights afforded to *(a)* Israel and *(b)* the United States under the agreement reached on the Galileo satellite navigation project. [182245]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* The draft agreement with the state of Israel is still to be ratified. The agreement itself will confer few rights upon Israel. It will define the areas where the parties agree to work together to their mutual benefit as partners in the programme. It gives Israel the right to enter into negotiations with the European Commission for this purpose and to participate in a Steering Committee established to manage the agreement. Israel may, subject to a further agreement, participate in the Galileo Joint Undertaking and its successors but this will depend on the level of funding that Israel is prepared to invest in the programme.

The agreement with the United States focuses on achieving full interoperability between Galileo and its Global Positioning System (GPS) without interfering with the performance of either. It provides a framework for co-operation between the parties and defines the compatibility between the GPS and Galileo systems. It also affirms the right to free trade in goods and services related to both civil systems. Each party has a right to object to any proposed changes to the other's radio signals. The agreement also establishes joint committees that will meet to oversee the working of its various aspects.

Government Targets

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress has been made towards meeting the targets set out in, Our towns and cities: the future, relating to *(a)* journey times on the London underground, *(b)* road congestion in large urban areas, *(c)* increasing bus use, *(d)* increasing rail use, *(e)* reducing the number of people killed and injured in road accidents and *(f)* increasing light rail use; [180856]

(2) what public service agreement targets were due to be met by his Department by 31 March; how many of these have been met; and if he will make a statement; [180904]

(3) what performance targets have been set for his Department, agencies and non-departmental bodies since June 2001, stating in each case *(a)* the target to be reached and *(b)* the date by which it was to be reached. [180950]

Mr. McNulty: The targets, which make up the Department's public service agreement, were agreed in the Spending Review 2002 and came into effect in April 2003. Most of these have a 2010 deadline. They replace earlier targets set out in the "10 Year Plan, Delivering Better Transport" and reflected in "Our Towns and Cities: the Future".

The Department's Autumn Performance Report, presented to Parliament in December 2003, and its Annual Report, presented in April 2004, give details of progress towards each target. The Department will report again on progress in December 2004.

The Annual Reports of each of the Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies give details of their contribution towards the Department's public service agreement targets.

Hazard Perception Testing

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what formal *(a)* training and *(b)* qualifications are required for trainers of hazard perception testing. [181043]

Mr. Jamieson: In order to join the statutory Register of Approved Driving Instructors, potential instructors are required to pass a three-part examination comprising practical and theoretical elements. Qualified instructors also undergo a periodic test of continued instructional ability, which will be augmented by a computer-based assessment later this year. While statute does not require formal training or qualifications for those providing training to learner drivers in preparation for the theory test, we strongly recommend

that such training is linked with practical driving lessons, and those can only be provided by Approved Driving Instructors within the statutory scheme.

Highways Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Highways Agency in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180891]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency's requirements for legal, financial and auditing services have largely been met by officials within either the Department for Transport or the Agency itself. However, since 2001, legal and financial services have also been provided to the Agency by the following external organisations:

Legal:

Arnheim Tite and Lewis
Berwin Leighton Solicitors
Berwins
Bond Pearce Solicitors
Davitt Jones Bould
Denton Wilde Sapte
Eversheds
Greenwoods Solicitors
Mace and Jones
Michelmores
Pannone and Partners
Tite and Lewis
Treasury Solicitor
Valuation Office Agency

Financial:

Cap Gemini Ernst and Young Uk Plc
Marconi Software Solutions Ltd
Maximum Connections Consultancy Ltd
Office Of Government Commerce
Oracle Corporation Uk Ltd
Sigma

The value of these services in 2002–03 and 2003–04 was as follows:

£000

	2002–2003	2003–2004
Legal	27,097	31,697
Financial	6,172	3,878

It will take the Agency some further time to derive the corresponding information for 2001–2 from an accounting system that was decommissioned in May 2002. That information will be provided as soon as it is available.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180892]

Mr. Jamieson: Organisations which provided legal, financial or auditing services to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency are as follows:

(a) Legal services:

		£
2001	Stephenson Harwood (London)	56,550
2002	Constant and Constant (London)	86,715
2002	Treasury Solicitor	45,624
2003	Treasury Solicitor	36,917

(b) No organisations provided financial services.

(c) Auditing services:

		£
2001	National Audit Office	63,000
2002	National Audit Office	63,000
2003	National Audit Office	63,000

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in each year since 2001. [180894]

Mr. Jamieson: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has not used financial consultants in the years in question. Technical consultancy expenditure amounted to:

	£
2001	1,537,374
2002	1,241,664
2003	830,520

None of which was on a call-off basis.

Park-and-ride Schemes

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the park and ride schemes which have been given approval since 1 January 2003; whether each was *(a)* a new scheme and *(b)* an extension to an existing one; whether the site was located in green belt land; and how many additional parking spaces were included. [180907]

Mr. McNulty: Three major public transport schemes containing a new park and ride element have been approved since 1 January 2003. They are:

Liverpool South Parkway—a fully approved scheme. No green belt land is involved. The number of car spaces created will be 240;

Coleshill Interchange (Warwickshire)—a provisionally approved scheme. The development would be partly in green belt land. 200 car parking spaces would be created; and

A386 Plymouth Northern Corridor—a fully approved scheme. No green belt land is involved. The number of car spaces created will be 450.

Local authorities are also developing other park and ride type schemes using block capital funding for integrated transport. These schemes are not subject to a Government approval process.

Road Accidents

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will set out in respect of each local authority area in England and Wales the number of fatalities from road traffic accidents in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2003. [182589]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each year since 2001. [180883]

Mr. Jamieson: The following answers are for Vehicle Inspectorate only.

(a) Technical and financial contracts: Total values

	£
2001–02	3,220,930
2002–03	4,146,575
2003–04	4,042,190

Note:
These do not include the totals detailed at part b and c

(b) Technical consultants used on a call-off basis: Total values

	£
2001–02	89,100
2002–03	119,050
2003–04	116,375

(c) Financial consultants used on a call-off basis: Total values

	£
2001–02	18,390
2002–03	1,100
2003–04	31,110

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided *(a)* legal, *(b)* financial and *(c)* auditing services valued at over £25,000 to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each year since 2001; and what the value of these services was in each case. [180899]

Mr. Jamieson: The information is as follows:

(a) The following organisations provided legal services to VOSA:

2001–2002: VI Division only

	£
Bannister Preston	44,839
Bruce Weir	52,096
Foinette Quinn Solicitors	65,580
Grindeys Solictors	41,566
Hine and Co	38,968
Shulmans	113,836
The Bradin Trubshaw Partnership	34,892
The Treasury Solicitior	76,260
Veale Wasbrough	26,435

2002–2003: VI Division only

	£
AMS Law Solicitors	26,041
Argles Stoneham Burstows	37,064
Bannister Preston	90,417
Belmores Solicitors	25,706
Bird and Bird	74,931
Grindeys Solicitors	35,464
Hine and Co	49,460
Shulmans Solicitors	115,687
The Bradin Trubshaw Partnership	35,370
The Treasury Solicitor	41,468
Woodfme Foinette Quinn	32,358

2003–2004: VI Division only

	£
Argles Stoneham Burstows	31,093
Bannister Preston	69,014
Barry Culshaw Solicitors	30,676
Bird and Bird	252,669
Grindeys Solicitors	25,326
Hine and Co	36,635
Martin Dalton	28,659
Sherman Philips Solicitors	38,373
Shulmans Solicitors	137,950
The Bradin Trubshaw Partnership	30,193
The Treasury Solicitor	58,377
Veale Wasbrough	115,677
Woodfme Foinette Quinn	25,888

(b) Nil.

(c) The National Audit Office are responsible for providing auditing services to VOSA. The following fees were payable:

		£
2001–2002	Vehicle Inspectorate only	39,500
2002–2003	Vehicle Inspectorate only	39,000
2003–2004	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	73,000

HEALTH

Abortion

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what records are kept of babies surviving abortion; [181056]

(2) in what format a death following an incomplete abortion is recorded; and what public access there is to these records; [181061]

(3) how many babies survived abortion in each of the last five years and for what period of time they survived in each case; [181057]

(4) whether incomplete abortions are recorded as abortions; [181058]

(5) whether abortion forms completed in advance of the abortion are maintained on record irrespective of the outcome of the abortion; and in what form these are available for *(a)* public and *(b)* academic scrutiny; [181059]

(6) in what format records of an incomplete abortion are maintained. [181060]

(7) what prosecutions have been brought against *(a)* medical practitioners and *(b)* others for (i) negligence and (ii) other matters in respect of incomplete abortions in the last three years. [181062]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, any registered medical practitioner who terminates a pregnancy is required to notify the Chief Medical Officer. The abortion notification form does not collect information on whether the foetus survived the abortion.

Incomplete abortions where the pregnancy continues, which can happen in early abortion, are not included in the published abortion statistics.

When a foetus is born which shows signs of life but subsequently dies, the birth and death must be registered in the district where the birth and death happened.

The Department does not hold information on prosecutions in respect of incomplete abortions.

Alcohol

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of cases presented at accident and emergency units in the last 12 months involved alcohol as a causal factor. [182486]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Arm's Length Bodies

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the £500 million he has authorised to be transferred from arm's length bodies will be spent. [182407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We intend to publish a report on the review of arm's length bodies later this month.

Clinical Trials

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the clinical trials on adult users, whose findings have so far been examined as part of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and Committee on Safety of Medicines review of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants, were completed in each of the periods *(a)* 1985 to 1989, *(b)* 1990 to 1994, *(c)* 1995 to 1999 and *(d)* 2000 to 2004. [179576]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Committee on Safety of Medicines expert working group on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) has so far examined trials in adult users involving paroxetine. The following table indicates the number of trials of adult use of paroxetine which were completed in each of the time periods specified.

	Number
1985–89	67
1990–94	38
1995–99	27
2000–04	14

The review of other SSRIs is continuing and the working group's report will be published later this year.

Cosmetic Treatments

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with what bodies he requires practitioners working in clinics offering non-surgical cosmetic treatments to be registered; and if he will make a statement. [181196]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

There is no requirement for practitioners to be registered with a particular body but HABIA—the standards setting body for the industry—recommend that they are qualified and a member of an appropriate professional body.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines for safe practice his Department offers to clinics that offer non-surgical cosmetic treatments; and if he will make a statement. [181197]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

HABIA the standard setting body for the industry produces Health and Safety Implementation Packs for hairdressing and beauty therapy which cover the legislation that affects the industry.

HABIA, in conjunction with the industry and stakeholders, such as health practitioners, develops National Occupational Standards (NOS). These define the competence needed to perform tasks and take account of health and safety requirements. Standards have been developed into qualifications and can also be used in job descriptions, staff appraisal, induction and training.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations exist to protect customers of clinics that offer non-surgical cosmetic treatments; and if he will make a statement. [181198]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

Legislation applicable to the industry includes the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Electricity at Work Act 1989.

Removal of hair using light or laser systems and carrying out photo rejuvenation is covered by the Care Standards Act 2003. To epilate the hair follicle using diathermy, galvanic and blend techniques falls under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Providing massage and ultra-violet tanning treatments is covered by local bye-laws in some parts of the UK.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what inspections have been undertaken by *(a)* the National Care Standards Commission and *(b)* the Healthcare Commission into cosmetic surgery clinics; and if he will publish the results; [181199]

(2) what action his Department has taken in response to the recommendations made in the National Care Standards Commission report on cosmetic surgery *(a)* that clinics be inspected annnually and *(b)* that internal auditing be organised within each clinic and reported to the National Care Standards Commission every six months; and if he will make a statement; [181205]

(3) what steps have been taken following the Chief Medical Officer's response to the National Care Standards Commission report on an inspection of cosmetic surgery clinics that he wanted to initiate a full review of cosmetic surgery practice across England; [181206]

(4) what plans his Department has to conduct a review of cosmetic surgery practice; and if he will make a statement. [181207]

Dr. Ladyman: Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), has established an expert group to review the regulation of cosmetic surgery in England. The group is considering all relevant issues and will take into account all available evidence, including two reports on cosmetic surgery establishments published in February and June 2003 and a report proposing improved inspection methodology published in April 2003, by the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC). The expert group is due to report to the CMO in the summer.

The regulator, previously the NCSC and now the Healthcare Commission, is responsible for publishing reports of its inspection work.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sanctions are available to him against private cosmetic surgery clinics not following guidelines and advice give by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [181201]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department itself has no powers to impose sanctions against individual private healthcare establishments regulated under the Care Standards Act 2000. That Act provides for the regulatory body, now the Healthcare Commission, to take proceedings against any registered healthcare establishment that contravenes or fails to comply with the Act or the Private and Voluntary Health Care Regulations and for the courts to impose penalties on summary conviction ranging from levels one to five on the standard scale.

Failure to follow non-statutory guidelines or advice given by the Department is not an offence.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures have been taken to ensure that patients of private cosmetic surgery clinics receive fair and accurate information concerning the treatments available; and if he will make a statement; [181202]

(2) what action his Department has taken in response to the recommendation made in the Health Committee's report on The Regulation of Private and Other Independent Healthcare that health warnings be placed on all advertising for cosmetic surgery; and if he will make a statement. [181195]

Dr. Ladyman: The Private and Voluntary Health Care Regulations (S.I. No. 3968, 2001) include the requirement that all independent healthcare establishments regulated under the Care Standards Act 2000 prepare and implement written statements, as part of their governance procedures, of the policies to be applied and the procedures to be followed in relation to the provision of information to patients and others.

The national minimum standards for independent healthcare expand on this requirement. Each establishment is required to produce a patients' guide, to be reviewed annually, in a format suitable for the patient profile of the establishment with regard to language and translation and for patients with a disability. The aim is to provide patients with clear and accurate information about their treatment and its likely costs, and to ensure that advertisements comply with the code of practice on advertising and do not mislead.

Dentistry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been put in place to ensure primary care trusts are ready to implement changes to the way dentistry is organised locally from April 2005. [178277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department and the shadow special health authority for dentistry are working closely with strategic health authorities and primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure they are ready to implement the changes proposed for dentistry.

We have just completed a series of PCT roadshows around the country, in Manchester, London and Birmingham, which were designed to help PCT commissioners and dental leads for the proposed changes.

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost is of training a dentist to NHS standards. [180661]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are some variations in costs between dental schools, but we estimate that the total revenue costs of the pre-clinical and clinical training of a dentist over the five year course average £140,000.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times *(a)* he and *(b)* senior civil servants have met the (i) British Dental Association and (ii) General Dental Council regarding the recruitment of overseas dentists from EU accession countries in the last six months. [178273]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I met with the British Dental Association on 15 March, when international recruitment was discussed in general terms. The recruitment of overseas dentists from European Union accession countries was not specifically discussed. I met with the General Dental Council (GDC) on Tuesday 6 July to discuss the recruitment of overseas dentists.

The Chief Dental Officer is a member of the GDC and international recruitment is an on-going issue for GDC meetings. The Department has also discussed with the GDC the process for dentists wishing to join the GDC register and to ensure the process is straightforward and swift.

Departmental Investment

Mr. Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the schemes for which his Department and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are co-funders, how much was invested by each Department; and what the overall cost of each programme was. [174064]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Together with my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Sport and Tourism (Richard Caborn), I chair the cross-Government activity co-ordination team (ACT). The ACT is not a direct funding body, but has been tasked with identifying and co-ordinating existing work across Government and identifying new sources of funding for evidence based interventions and innovative pilot projects.

The Department, together with Sport England (a Department for Culture, Media and Sport funded non-departmental public body) and the Countryside Agency, funds the local exercise action pilot scheme with an overall cost of £2.5million over three years. The Department is contributing £1 million and Sport England £0.7 million to this work.

In addition to these cross-Government schemes the Department of Health is taking a range of actions.

In April 2004, the Chief Medical Officer published his report, At least five a week, which brings together the latest evidence on physical activity and health.

The Department, as a co-funder alongside the Countryside Agency and the British Heart Foundation, has contributed £27,000 to a pilot scheme that has distributed 10,000 pedometers for use in primary care.

The Department and Sport England have jointly commissioned research to evaluate existing questionnaires used to determine participation in physical activity and sport.

We have also commissioned work to develop an objective measure of fitness for eventual inclusion in the Health Survey for England and a short physical activity questionnaire for use in general practice.

The Department published a national quality assurance framework for exercise referral systems in 2001 and we have also contributed funding of £120,000 over a three-year period to help establish the register of exercise professionals.

The Government has been consulting on further proposals for how we can increase levels of activity and encourage more people to be more active through the consultation document, "Choosing Health? Choosing Activity". The responses will inform preparation of the Public Health White Paper to be published in the autumn.

Drug Treatment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have to expand the residential drug rehabilitation services. [182228]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The National Treatment Agency has a national work programme to bring down waiting times and improve access to residential rehabilitation. They have also set up a national steering group to advise the progress of the work programme. The programme includes:

specific work to improve the efficiency of the system to access residential treatment, which includes a national online database of current vacancies in residential rehabilitation units (Bedvacs) to make sure clients are matched to vacancies;

the implementation of new models for regional commissioning of residential drug treatment by the end of 2004; and

a systematic assessment of the need for residential drugs treatment in each part of England.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182147]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My Department has no responsibility for any houses.

Environmental Sustainability

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what have been identified as the most significant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of his Department's estate. [181717]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's estate consists mainly of offices. The most significant sustainable development impacts are water and energy consumption, waste production, and travel.

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken by his Department to review arrangements for public reporting of its sustainable development impacts. [181718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department currently reports sustainable development impacts through its website and the Departmental annual report. The Department has reviewed these arrangements, and will continue to do so to ensure they remain appropriate and accessible.

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements his Department has to report publicly on its key sustainable development impacts. [181719]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with standard Government procedures, the Department reports on its main environmental impacts through its website.

Since November 2002, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has monitored Departments' performance against targets set out in the "Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate". "Performance data is published in the annual Sustainable Development in Government Report" (http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/reports/index.htm). The second annual report, published in November 2003, contains data based on the financial year April 2002 to March 2003. Copies are available in the Library.

There is also a summary of progress in the Department's annual report.

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the non-office sites on his Department's estates which have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings. [181720]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No sites have been identified.

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been in water consumption by his Department in each year since 1997. [181721]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has records for four of its major London buildings. The figures show that consumption each year in these buildings was as follows:

	Cubic metres
1997–98	60,768m^3
1998–99	30,507m^3
1999–2000	28,428m^3
2000–01	25,440m^3
2001–02	22,167m^3
2002–03	27,287m^3
2003–04	22,256m^3

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has joined the Watermark project. [181722]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No, but independently the Department has reduced the annual water consumption per person below the March 2004 target in the framework for sustainable development in the Government estate.

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress there has been in reducing *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* single occupancy car commuting in his Department against the baseline year. [181723]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department fleet has reduced from 132 vehicles in 2003 to 87 vehicles in 2004. There has been a reduction in emissions and increase in the use of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) vehicles as a cleaner alternative in 2004. Vehicles purchased over the last two years have been assured to comply with Euro IV regulations on cleaner emissions.

Single occupancy car commuting figures are not collected by the Department and are therefore not available. However, we are taking steps to discourage commuting by car to the Department's principal offices, especially in London, by reducing the car parking spaces available.

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what parts of his Department's estate are not covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181727]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The commitments set out in the Framework for sustainable development do not cover those parts of the Department's estate that are not directly owned or managed by the Department as its ability to influence environmental practice is extremely limited in such cases. In the main, these cover small groups of staff and the majority of the Department's estate is covered by the commitments in the Framework.

Health Care

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was invested in healthcare provision in each hospital in each of the last 10 years in *(a)* Burnley and *(b)* Lancashire. [181525]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not available in the format requested. Expenditure per weighted head in the Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area, which includes the constituency of Burnley, has increased from £600.03 in 1997–98 to £1,173.57 in 2002–03 (the latest year available). This does not represent the total expenditure per head as an element of health expenditure cannot be identified by SHA area.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department intends to provide adequate health care to people with learning disabilities. [182442]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 15 March 2004, *Official Report*, columns 117–18W.

Health Protection Agency

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he will put in place to ensure that the Health Protection Agency supports the development of frameworks to protect the patient, as set out in paragraph 2.27 of the NHS Improvement Plan. [181653]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The overarching role of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is to protect the patient by protecting the population. The corporate and business plans of the HPA set out an extensive programme of work over the next five years to achieve this aim. They include 14 strategic goals with supporting objectives and milestones.

In the context of the NHS Improvement Plan, one of these specific objectives is to support the national health service in implementing "Winning ways; working together to reduce healthcare associated infection in England" by providing data to enable development and evaluation of intervention strategies applied in the NHS.

We will hold the HPA to account for its achievement of all of its objectives, by the normal accountability and performance review mechanisms.

Hospital Endoscopes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what reports he has received of incidents of insufficient decontamination of hospital endoscopes; [181623]

(2) if he will make a statement on measures to ensure sufficient decontamination of hospital equipment, with particular reference to flexible endoscopes; [181624]

(3) when audits have been conducted into decontamination procedures for flexible endoscopes. [181625]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) operates a reporting system for adverse incidents concerning all medical devices used within England. In 2001, the MHRA received a report of an incident where a hospital was not following the correct procedure for operating the equipment used to decontaminate endoscopes. This report was investigated by MHRA in consultation with the manufacturer and healthcare user. The hospital was advised of the correct procedure by the manufacturer and the hospital's risk manager was informed of the findings. MHRA has received no further reports from England.

Following recent reports in Northern Ireland of inadequate decontamination of endoscopes, on 23 June as a precautionary measure, MHRA issued a medical device alert to all trusts in England, advising them to carry out an immediate assessment of endoscope decontamination processes, for both flexible and rigid endoscopes. In line with MHRA's procedures, this alert was forwarded to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales for them to consider publication.

As a result of information obtained from a series of visits carried out by NHS Estates (NHSE) to reprocessing facilities between March and November 2001, the Department adopted a two-stage strategy for improving decontamination.

The first stage involved the allocation of funds to address the most urgent needs that national health service trusts had identified as a result of their reviews. All NHS trusts in England had access to reprocessing services of an acceptable standard by December 2001.

The second stage of the strategy involves ensuring that all NHS trusts in England have access to decontamination services that are both sustainable and meet the most up to date standards. Although the standards to be met—those underpinning the Medical Devices Directive (93/42/EEC)—are set nationally, the way in which they are met is decided locally. To this end, strategic health authorities have drawn up strategies for improving decontamination across the whole of their health systems.

Guidance drawn up by NHSE and issued to the NHS in England recommends that NHS trusts should undertake regular reviews and audits of all aspects of the process of decontamination—including flexible endoscopes—within their organisations. NHSE has developed an audit tool for NHS trusts to use in conducting their self-assessments. Such audits result in action plans to address any deficiencies that have been identified. The Department does not collect information about when such local audits have been carried out.

Induction Centre Screening

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost *(a)* per person and *(b)* in England of screening people in induction centres for (i) TB and (ii) HIV in each year since 1997; [178280]

(2) what proportion of immigrants *(a)* in induction centres where screening is offered and *(b)* in England have taken up the offer of screening for (i) TB and (ii) HIV in each year since 1997; [178281]

(3) if he will list the UK induction centres which *(a)* offer and *(b)* do not offer asylum seekers (i) voluntary and (ii) routine screening for (A) TB and (B) HIV. [178282]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Tuberculosis screening has been incorporated into the general health assessment which is offered on a voluntary basis to all asylum seekers in the Kent (Dover) and [illegible] and Humberside induction centres since July 2003 respectively. A check for HIV is routinely in the centres, unless it is requested by [illegible] or a specific need is identified by healthcare [illegible] osts of the service vary from site to site and case to case and it is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown.

The Department does not collect information on the numbers of immigrants in England who are tested for TB or HIV. However, locally collected information for the last six months from the Kent (Dover) induction centre suggests that 99 per cent., or 2,378 out of 2,406, of asylum seekers took up the offer of a general health assessment, including TB screening.

Mental Health

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with mental disorders. [182400]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made an estimate of the number of people with mental disorders. However, the Office for National Statistics published "Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults Living in Private Households, 2000", that describes the prevalence of a range of mental disorders in the general household population. It also describes how people with particular disorders differ from those without any disorder on a range of factors: their background and personal characteristics, including employment and accommodation, physical health, current treatment and service use. This publication is available in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will rank each *(a)* primary care trust area and *(b)* health authority area by the rate of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 in 2002–03; and how many detentions there were in each area. [182356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available in the requested format.

Information on the number of detentions under the Mental Health Act 1983 of patients in national health service facilities by strategic health authority (SHA) and the rate of detention per 100,000 of the SHA population in England in 2002–03 is shown in the table.

	Total detentions (on admission and subsequent to admission) in NHS facilities	*Rate of detention per 100,000 of the SHA population*
England	45,064	91
By SHA		
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	760	47
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	1,035	64
Essex	1,063	66
West Midlands South	1,105	72
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	1,595	73
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	1,152	73
Kent and Medway	1,187	75

	Total detentions (on admission and subsequent to admission) in NHS facilities	Rate of detention per 100,000 of the SHA population
Thames Valley	1,614	77
County Durham and Tees Valley	886	78
Dorset and Somerset	938	78
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	1,708	78
Trent	2,062	78
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,455	81
Shropshire and Staffordshire	1,271	85
Cumbria and Lancashire	1,644	86
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,204	87
South Yorkshire	1,114	88
Surrey and Sussex	2,338	91
Birmingham and the Black Country	2,079	92
Cheshire and Merseyside	2,200	94
Greater Manchester	2,421	96
South West Peninsula	1,525	96
South West London	1,312	101
West Yorkshire	2,101	101
North East London	2,002	130
North West London	2,587	145
South East London	2,563	169
North Central London	2,143	176

Notes:
1. Figures exclude previous legislation (fifth schedule) and other Acts.
2. A patient may be sectioned more than once under the Korner aggregate return KP90.
3. Populations used are 2002 end of year estimates based upon the 2001 census.

Source:
Department of Health form KP90.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with user and provider bodies in relation to the proposed Mental Health Bill. [181571]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Formal consultation has taken place on the review of mental health legislation through the Green Paper "Reform of the Mental Health Act" 1983 (November 1999), the White Paper "Reforming the Mental Health Act" (December 2000), and the draft Mental Health Bill and consultation document published in June 2002. Throughout the review I have met with representatives of all the key user and provider bodies. Since publication of the draft Bill, I have held a series of meetings attended by individual users, voluntary organisations, health and social care professionals and national health service and local authority managers, specifically to discuss the practical operation of policies underpinning the draft Bill.

On 26 November 2003 the Secretary of State, John Reid, announced that a revised draft Mental Health Bill will be brought forward for pre-legislative scrutiny in this session and key stakeholders will be invited to give evidence to the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committee.

Mersey Regional Ambulance Service

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken following Mersey Regional Ambulance Service's failure to respond within 14 minutes to 80 calls between 26 and 28 March; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* Mersey Regional Ambulance Service and *(b)* Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority on this matter; [176933]

(2) what steps he has taken following the shortfalls in ambulance provision which occurred in the Mersey Regional Ambulance Service area between 26 and 28 March; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* Mersey Regional Ambulance Service and *(b)* Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority on these shortfalls. [176993]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 7 June 2004]:* Where local ambulance service performance is below required standards, the Department continues to work with strategic health authorities, the improvement partnership for ambulance services and the modernisation agency, to share learning and best practice.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he has taken following the meeting held between the Parliamentary Under-Secretary and the hon. Member for Warrington, North to discuss the Mersey Regional Ambulance Service (MRAS); and what discussions have been held with *(a)* the MRAS and *(b)* Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority on the matter since then. [180097]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 22 June 2004]:* Departmental officials continue to have discussions with all strategic health authorities (SHAs), including the Cheshire and Merseyside SHA, as part of a regular review of performance across a full range of issues. The responsibility for performance management of national health service trusts lies with the SHAs.

NHS Card

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposed NHS Card referred to in 2.21 of the NHS Improvement Plan will take the form of an entitlement card; and if he will make a statement. [181652]

Mr. Hutton: The proposal we are exploring is for a card which would support smart access to personal data and speed confirmation of access to appropriate care. No decision has yet been made as to whether such a card might in future be used as an entitlement card.

Osteoporosis

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people living with osteoporosis in England. [181760]

Dr. Ladyman: An estimated 3 million people in the United Kingdom suffer from osteoporosis. One in three women and one in 12 men over the age of 50 suffer from osteoporosis.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action his Department is taking to ensure that patients who have had an osteoporotic fracture, but who have not fallen, receive adequate treatment and management in the NHS. [181761]

Dr. Ladyman: All patients who suffer an osteoporotic fracture should receive adequate treatment and management. To ensure this, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is producing a clinical guideline on the assessment of fracture risk and prevention of osteoporotic fractures in individuals at high risk. The guideline will refer to, update and extend the evidence base of previously published guidelines and technology appraisals and those currently under development. NICE is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the national health service in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare.

Primary Care Trusts

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will release the findings of the review of primary care trusts undertaken by the Medicines Partnership task force. [182639]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The results of the survey carried out by the Joint Medicines Partnership task force to determine the extent to which primary care trusts have implemented medication reviews in accordance with the older people's national service framework are being analysed and are due to be announced in the autumn.

Pulmonary Disease

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to his Answer of 9 March 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1453–4W, on pulmonary disease, how he had told primary care trusts to interpret the term aspirational; [181666]

(2) pursuant to his Answer of 9 March 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1453–4W, on pulmonary disease, what timescale he expects to be used in meeting aspirational development standards, with particular reference to the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in primary and secondary care. [182401]

Dr. Ladyman: Even though primary care trusts have not specifically been told how to interpret the term aspirational, it would be assumed that they would try their hardest to implement any guidance when asked by the Secretary of State.

The consultation document, "Standards for better health", which set out the draft standards, was launched on 10 February 2004. The consultation ended on 4 May 2004. The standards will be published later in the year once responses from the consultation have been collated.

It is the responsibility of the Healthcare Commission, taking into account the healthcare standards, to develop criteria to review the national health service. Exactly how this will involve an assessment of the implementation of National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance is for the Healthcare Commission and NICE to liaise upon and determine.

TREASURY

Accounting Officers (Ministerial Directions)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions since 1 October 2003 he has been informed of a Minister issuing a direction to an accounting officer as set out in paragraphs 14–17 of the Treasury document, 'The Responsibilities of an Accounting Officer'; on which grounds the note of dissent was issued in each case; and if he will make a statement. [182749]

Ruth Kelly: The Treasury has not been informed of any directions issued by Ministers to Accounting Officers under this guidance, since the reply I gave to the hon. Member on 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 369W.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families with equivalised income of less than 60 per cent. of median will benefit from the extension of the child care tax credit to the provision of child care in the family home announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May; [182118]

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many families with equivalised income of less than 60 per cent. of median he estimates will benefit from the extension of the child care tax credit to the provision of child care in the family home announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May; [181839]

(2) what the latest estimate is of the annual cost of child care credit; and what the additional cost is of the changes announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May; [182119]

(3) what his latest estimate is of the cost of the child care credit; and what estimate he has made of the additional cost of the changes announced by the Minister for Children on 17 May. [181840]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 290W.

Deaths

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total number of deaths recorded was in each year since 1992. [182137]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Willetts, dated 5 July 2004:

The National-Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the total number of deaths recorded was in each year since 1992. I am replying in his absence.(182137)

The latest year for which data are available on deaths registered in each year is 2003. Figures are shown in the table below for each year from 1992 to 2003.

Number of deaths registered in each colendar year England and Wales, 1992 to 2003

Calendar year	Number of deaths
1992	558,313
1993	578,512
1994	551,780
1995	565,902
1996	563,007
1997	558,052
1998	553,435
1999	553,532
2000	537,877
2001	532,498
2002	535,356
2003	539,151

Departmental Staff

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department in each year since 1997. [181847]

Ruth Kelly: Data on staffing levels in the Chancellor's Departments and their agencies is collated by the Cabinet Office and published in "Civil Service Statistics". Copies are available in the Library, and at www.civil-service.gov.uk/statistics. The 2003 edition will be published in summer 2004.

Departmental Water Use

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the non-office sites within his Department's estates which have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings. [181857]

Ruth Kelly: Virtually all of the Chancellor's Department's estate is office based. There are no non-office sites within the Chancellor's Departments that have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings.

Economic Inactivity Rates

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the 50 local authority areas with the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest rates of economic inactivity among the working age population; and what those rates are. [182124]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Willetts, dated 5 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about economic inactivity. I am replying in his absence. (182124)

The following table gives lists the 50 local authorities in the United Kingdom with the highest and lowest economic inactivity rates (persons neither employed nor unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total population of working age), together with the rate for each of those authorities, The data are from the Labour Force Survey and are for the 12 month period ending February 2003, the latest date for which information is available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variability.

Economic inactivity rates of working age population[1] Unitary/local authority area 12 month period ending February 2003

		Percentage
50 highest economic inactivity rates		
1	Newham	39.9
2	Tower Hamlets	39.2
3	Manchester	34.8
4	Wear Valley	34.8
5	Merthyr Tydfil	33.8
6	Liverpool	33.6
7	Durham	33.6
8	Neath Port Talbot	33.4
9	Knowsley	33.3
10	Hackney	33.2
11	Nottingham	33.2
12	Middlesbrough	32.9
13	Blaenau Gwent	32.1
14	Barrow-in-Furness	31.6
15	Glasgow City	31.5
16	Islington	31.2
17	Kensington and Chelsea	31.1
18	Westminster, City of	31.1
19	Ceredigion	31.1
20	Leicester City	30.5
21	Haringey	30.3
22	East Lindsey	30.3
23	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	30.2
24	Caerphilly	30.2
25	Easington	30.1
26	Brent	30.0
27	Carmarthenshire	29.7
28	Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	29.5
29	Great Yarmouth	29.4
30	Barnsley	29.4
31	Hartlepool	29.2
32	Blackburn with Darwen	29.0
33	Derwentside	20.0
34	Sedgefield	28.9
35	Thanet	28.8
36	Birmingham	28.8
37	Inverclyde	28.7
38	Greenwich	28.5
39	Anglesey	28.5

Economic inactivity rates of working age population[1] Unitary/local authority area 12 month period ending February 2003

		Percentage
40	Southwark	28.3
41	Penwith	28.1
42	Pendle	28.1
43	Halton	28.0
44	Barking and Dagenham	27.9
45	Carlisle	27.8
46	Redcar and Cleveland	27.8
47	Wansbeck	27.7
48	Kingston upon Hull	27.6
49	Bradford	27.5
50	Clackmannanshire	27.5
50 lowest economic inactivity rates		
1	Forest Heath	7.4
2	Orkney Islands	8.7
3	Runnymede	9.0
4	Cherwell	9.6
5	Tandridge	9.6
6	Eastleigh	10.3
7	Rushmoor	10.3
8	Salisbury	10.6
9	Hart	11.0
10	Vale of White Horse	11.1
11	Test Valley	11.3
12	Stevenage	11.3
13	Blaby	12.2
14	Bracknell Forest	12.6
15	East Hertfordshire	12.6
16	Reigate and Banstead	12.7
17	East Cambridgeshire	12.7
18	West Berkshire	13.0
19	Argyll and Bute	13.1
20	Milton Keynes	13.2
21	Harborough	13.2
22	Kettering	13.2
23	Macclesfield	13.2
24	Horsham	13.3
25	South Northamptonshire	13.3
26	Hambleton	13.3
27	South Staffordshire	13.4
28	Northampton	13.4
29	Mole Valley	13.7
30	South Somerset	13.7
31	Mid Bedfordshire	13.8
32	Crawley	13.8
33	Broadland	13.0
34	West Oxfordshire	13.9
35	Welwyn Hatfield	14.1
36	Melton	14.1
37	Highland	14.1
38	Stratford-on-Avon	14.3
39	Dacorum	14.4
40	Woking	14.4
41	Huntingdonshire	14.4
42	South Cambridgeshire	14.4
43	South Gloucestershire	14.4
44	North West Leicestershire	14.4
45	South Holland	14.4
46	Harrogate	14.4
47	South Bedfordshire	14.6
48	Eden	14.6
49	Mid Devon	14.7
50	Teignbridge	14.7

[1] Men aged 16–64, women aged 16–59

Education Finance

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has *(a)* had since 17 March and *(b)* scheduled before 31 July with the Department for Education and Skills regarding the 2005 to 2008 funding allocation for (i) early years education, (ii) schools, (iii) further education and (iv) higher education. [182933]

Mr. Boateng: Treasury Ministers have regular dialogue with their colleagues in other Departments during as well as outside of spending reviews about a wide range of issues, including those relating to funding. Spending totals for the Department for Education and Skills for the years 2005–06 to 2007–08 were published in Budget 2004 and DfES will set out further details of how it proposes to allocate its settlement in due course.

Equitable Life

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Treasury will publish its submission to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration on Equitable Life. [180594]

Ruth Kelly: The submission was made at the request of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration for the purpose of informing her decision whether to undertake any further investigation into the regulation of Equitable Life. It is for her to determine whether and how it is published.

The Treasury believes that Exemption 10 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information applies as it would be premature for the Treasury to publish its submission in advance of the Ombudsman's decision.

GDP Deflator

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend his Department's gross domestic product deflator series to cover financial years 2009–10 to 2012–13. [181772]

Ruth Kelly: As stated in Annex A, paragraph A.9, of the 2004 Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (HC 301), the GDP deflator is assumed to increase at a rate of 2 per cent. a year from 2008–09 onwards.

Heavy Fuel Duty

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the increase in heavy fuel duty on *(a)* power plants and *(b)* electricity costs in Northern Ireland; [182084]

(2) what plans he has to introduce a relief on heavy fuel duty for Northern Ireland. [182085]

John Healey: When setting duty rates, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes account of all relevant economic, environmental and social considerations.

We have no plans to introduce a relief on heavy fuel oil for Northern Ireland.

Information/Support Services (Disabled People)

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received asking him to make funds available from the Government's cross-cutting review to set up *(a)* information databases and *(b)* support services for disabled people and carers. [182880]

Ruth Kelly: The Government are committed to improving the rights of, and opportunities for, disabled people and carers. Treasury Ministers receive a range of representations on issues concerning disabled people and carers.

Inward Investment (Scotland)

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the levels of inward investment in Scotland for each year since 1990, broken down by source country. [181649]

Mr. Boateng: Scottish Development International is responsible for promoting inward investment in Scotland. This is a devolved function and therefore a matter for the Scottish Executive.

PFI Projects (Environmental Impact)

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* sustainability and environmental impacts of private finance initiative projects and *(b)* the capability of the private finance initiative process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects; [181842]

(2) what plans he has to make private finance initiative contracts more accountable and transparent in terms of environmental sustainability. [181843]

Mr. Boateng: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Environment and Agri-Environment (Mr. Morley) gave on 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1495W.

Red Diesel

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it the policy of the Government to retain UK control over the tax and excise duty payable on red diesel; and if he will make a statement. [182590]

John Healey *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* Taxation decisions are a matter for the Chancellor and are made after careful consideration of social, economic and environmental factors. The taxation of red diesel, as with all taxes, is regularly monitored and evaluated.

Savings Directive

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take account of the potential effects on *(a)* the British Virgin Islands and *(b)* other overseas territories which rely on their financial services industry of the proposed EU Savings Directive. [181832]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Romford (Mr. Rosindell) on 3 June 2003, *Official Report*, columns. 192–93W.

Stamp Duty

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implication of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales so as to charge marginal rates of *(a)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £120,000 or less, 3 per cent. on sales revenue between £120,000 and £249,999, 5 per cent. on sales revenue between £250,000 and £499,999, 7 per cent. on sales revenue of £500,000 and above, and *(b)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £120,000 or less, 3 per cent. on sales revenue between £120,000 and £249,999, 5 per cent. on sales revenue equal to £250,000 and above, 0 per cent. on property sales of £120,000 or less, 2 per cent. on property sales between £120,000 and £249,999 and 5 per cent. on sales revenue of £250,000 and above. [182736]

Ruth Kelly: The estimated revenue cost, in 2005–06, of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales according to the three schemes described in the question is given in the following table:

Price of residential property	*Tax regime 1 marginal rates (%)*	*Tax regime 2 marginal rates (%)*	*Tax regime 3 marginal rates (%)*
£0-£119,999	0	0	0
£120,000-£249,999	3	3	2
£250,000-£499,999	5	5	5
£500,000 and above	7	5	5
Revenue cost (million)	£570	£850	£1,440

This does not include any allowance for behavioural changes.

Unclaimed Assets

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition the Department uses of an unclaimed asset. [181995]

Ruth Kelly: There is currently no official definition in the UK of an unclaimed asset.

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Department has to assess the total value of unclaimed assets held by financial institutions in the United Kingdom. [182081]

Ruth Kelly: The Government announced in the Budget that it supports the efforts of the financial services industry in trying to reunite unclaimed assets with their owners and that it believes that where assets and owners cannot be reunited, it is right that the assets be reinvested in society, as long as the original owners' entitlements to reclaim are preserved. The Government is looking to the industry to build on current momentum, and expand the scope of voluntary action into retail banking and the wider financial sector.

The Government will assess and report on progress at the time of the 2004 Pre-Budget Report.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases against his Department, the agencies for which it is responsible and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [161463]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created in May 2002 and such information as might be provided by predecessor and linked organisations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested with regard to completed cases involving the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is as follows:

Equal pay

0 cases.

Race and sex discrimination

Four cases. No cost awards were made in any of the cases. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister agreed settlements totalling £750 in two cases. The two other cases were settled on terms that did not involve payment. The total amount spent on contesting these claims could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Race discrimination

Two cases. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister successfully defended one case and the other case was settled on terms that did not involve payment. The total amount spent on contesting these claims could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disability discrimination

0 cases.

Unfair dismissal

One case. The case was settled on terms that did not involve payment. The total amount spent on contesting these claims could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Homelessness

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the proportion of England's homeless who live in Coventry South. [182443]

Phil Hope: Information reported by local authorities about statutory homelessness in their districts is not available at Parliamentary constituency level The number of households reported by Coventry City Council as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category during 2003–04 was 741.

This represents 0.54 per cent. of the 137,000 households accepted by all local authorities in England during the same period.

Housing (North Somerset)

Brian Cotter: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many households were living in temporary accommodation in the North Somerset local authority in each year since 1997: and how many of those households included dependent children. [182503]

Phil Hope: A summary of information reported by North Somerset District Council about the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March of each year since 1997 is tabled as follows. The number of these containing dependent children or expectant mothers has only been collected since March 2002.

Households in temporary accommodation[1] arranged by North Somerset District Council, as at 31 March

	Total households	*of which: with dependent children[2]*
1997	53	n/a
1998	100	n/a
1999	372	n/a
2000	456	n/a
2001	554	n/a
2002	294	248
2003	294	[3]
2004	419	[3]

Notes:

[1] Households in temporary accommodation arranged by the local authority pending enquiries, or after being accepted, under homelessness legislation.

[2] Includes an expectant mother. Data only collected since March 2002.

[3] Not reported

Source:

ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly)

Migrant Workers

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of the scale of hot bedding by migrant workers living in overcrowded and dangerous multi-occupancy housing. [182161]

Keith Hill: The Government is concerned about the abuse of workers by gangmasters, particularly in agriculture and related areas, and it therefore supported Jim Sheridan's Gangmasters (Licensing) Bill which successfully completed its passage through Parliament on 6 July and which will shortly receive Royal Assent.

In addition, the measures contained in the Housing Bill currently before Parliament will enable local authorities to license Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO). It will be an offence (subject to a fine of up to £20,000 on conviction) for a licence holder to permit an HMO to be occupied by more persons than for which it is licensed. Under Part 1 of the Bill, local authorities will also have a duty to take enforcement action in respect of any housing conditions which pose a serious threat to the health or safety of the residents of the property.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many *(a)* neighbourhood wardens and *(b)* posts carrying out functions equivalent of those of

neighbourhood wardens had been created by each local authority by 1 January; [181387]

(2) what financial support his Department has provided to assist the setting-up of neighbourhood wardens or their equivalent in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority area. [181388]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has funded Neighbourhood Warden Schemes since 2000–01. £52.3 million has been provided to assist the setting up of warden schemes during the three-year period 2001–02 to 2003–04.

As of 1 January 2004 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has funded 1,454 Neighbourhood wardens in 243 schemes in England and Wales. The above funding is not recorded by local authority area. The following table provides details of funding by Government Office Region.

NWT funded wardens by GO Region

Government office region	*Number of wardens*	*Number of schemes*	*2001–02 (£)*	*2002–03 (£)*	*2003–04 (£)*	*Total ODPM cost (£)*
London	321	42	1,761,726	5,273,770	7,909,219	14,944,715
South West	97	16	789,616	763,199	1,319,986	2,872,801
South East	130	29	1,116,522	2,067,965	2,248,128	5,432,615
North West	293	49	1,708,263	3,165,904	3,753,241	8,627,408
North East	131	22	1,029,861	1,367,386	966,175	3,363,422
East Midlands	58	10	456,676	884,481	895,237	2,236,394
West Midlands	168	29	973,462	2,239,373	2,635,476	5,848,311
Yorkshire and the Humber	174	25	1,186,472	2,206,041	2,606,863	5,999,376
Eastern	66	17	582,807	1,038,931	945,377	2,567,115
Overall	1,438	239	9,605,405	19,007,050	23,279,702	51,892,157

Note:
This table does not include the £422,000 funding for the five Welsh Neighbourhood Warden Schemes (16 wardens) funded by NMWT.

The success of this pilot funding is reflected by the fact that 81 per cent. of the first round of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's warden schemes have been sustained through mainstream budgets or other funding streams. There is also a plethora of schemes run by local authorities, registered social landlords, voluntary groups, private security organisations, and others. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister estimates that there are about 250 warden schemes funded from outside budgets.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit also funds a number of schemes in NDC areas, 15 schemes in Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders and others through local NRF. Exact figures are being collected.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to publish the draft Bill on the proposed regional assemblies. [181948]

Mr. Raynsford: The Government intends to publish its draft Bill on elected regional assemblies before the Parliamentary summer recess. The orders must be agreed first, because the referendums cannot occur without them, in which case there would be no need to publish a Bill for public information.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Fraud

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce legislation on a fraudulent trading offence for individuals as proposed in the Law Commission's Report Number 277; and if he will make a statement. [181706]

Paul Goggins: The Government published a Consultation Paper dealing with this and other proposals to reform the law of fraud on 17 May. I have asked for a copy to be sent to my hon. Friend. Comments are invited by 9 August.

Identity Cards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safeguards are proposed to guard against discrimination against ethnic minorities in the identity card scheme. [177924]

Mr. Browne: The draft legislation and the administration of the scheme is bound by the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. Therefore, the scheme must have due regard to the elimination of unlawful racial discrimination, the promotion of equal opportunities and good relations between people from different racial groups.

The identity cards scheme itself is non-discriminatory as it is intended to cover everyone in the United Kingdom for longer than a specified period (three months). The scheme will not, in general, require people to obtain a specific, additional document, as it will be designed to make use of existing documents that will be designated as identity cards. Most members of the identity cards "family" are likely to be enhanced versions of existing identity documents which are very widely held familiar documents that are already used as proof of identity.

The draft Bill makes no changes to police powers and there is a specific prohibition on introducing regulations which would require a card to be carried at all times. The police generally have no powers to require a person to provide them with information about their identity. Police already have the power to stop and search members of the public under a number of pieces of legislation. Following on from the Stephen Lawrence

Inquiry Report the Home Office has already carried out a programme of research on stops and searches which identified a number of requirements to improve legitimacy in stop and search.

The education and training of police and public service administrators will be an important part of the implementation and development of the scheme.

The draft Bill specifies the information which may be recorded on the National Identity Register. It does not allow for the recording of ethnicity. The register will hold individuals' confirmed identity information securely and an audit of checks made of the register whether via an ID card or otherwise will be held on the database to comply with the Data Protection Act. Disclosure of the details of a person's entry on the register and audit log records will not be possible without his or her consent other than as authorised under specific provisions in the draft Bill. There will be strict controls and independent oversight of these arrangements. The draft Bill also provides for oversight of the practical operation of the procedures for disclosing personal information from the National Identity Register.

Immigration

Mr. Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the requirements for police registration in the Immigration Rules continue to apply to Taiwanese nationals. [183037]

Mr. Browne: No. As my predecessor, my right hon. friend, the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes) explained in her reply to my hon. friend, the member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) of 4 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 982W, the police registration arrangements are a matter which is kept under review. Having reviewed this matter I have decided that the holders of passports issued by the Taiwanese authorities should no longer be routinely required to register with the police.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how disputes between recognised trade unions and the National Offender Management Service will be resolved. [178802]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 21 June 2004]:* Trade Unions will continue to negotiate and seek resolution to any dispute by pursuing the matter with the Employing body. In the case of Prison Officers represented by the POA this would be the Prison Service, with existing procedures remaining in place. The unions recognised by the National Probation Service (Napo, UNISON and GMB-Scoop) would continue, as under existing procedures, to register a dispute with an individual Probation Board. A dispute which could not be resolved at the local level would be referred to the National Negotiating Council (NNC) and if the dispute could not be resolved within the NNC it might be referred to a third party (such as ACAS) for conciliation or arbitration.

While there are no immediate plans to change the existing procedures, we would, of course, consult on any future proposals to change them.

Police

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* community support officers and *(c)* administrative support staff for police operations there are in (i) Leyton and Wanstead, (ii) the London borough of Redbridge and (iii) the London borough of Waltham Forest; what the figures were in 1997; what the crime clear-up rate (A) is now and (B) was in 1997; what the level of spending on policing and community safety in each area (1) is now and (2) was in 1997; and what the change in spending has been in real terms. [178178]

Ms Blears: Information on police officers, police staff and community support officers has been supplied by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and is set out in the table. Community support officer numbers are those for 31 March 2004.

	31 March 2001	*31 March 2004*
London borough of Redbridge		
Police officers	371.8	437.9
Police Staff[1]	106.8	81.4
PCSO	Not applicable	21
London Borough of Waltham Forest		
Police officers	439.9	530.5
Police Staff[1]	115.3	95.7
PCSO	Not applicable	18

[1] Police staff figures for 2001 include staff in control rooms. These staff are now counted centrally as part of the MPS C3i communications system.
All figures are full-time equivalents.

I am told by the Commissioner that the current London Borough Operational Unit structure was only introduced in 2000 after the boundary changes with Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey force areas. It is not therefore possible to provide earlier police strength data at borough level.

The budgets set by the Commissioner for Redbridge and Waltham Forest are as follows:

	Budget set by Commissioner
London Borough of Redbridge	
2003–04 (£ million)	19.77
2004–05 (£ million)	22.47
Increase (Percentage)	13.6
London Borough of Waltham Forest	
2003–04 (£ million)	23.81
2004–05 (£ million)	26.49
Increase (Percentage)	11.3

London borough policing is also supported by police services funded centrally by the Metropolitan police, such as the Territorial Support Group and other specialist units. It is not possible to provide earlier budget data at borough level.

Information on detection rates is available for five key categories of crime for each basic command unit (BCU)—in London BCUs equate to London boroughs—are available for 2001–02 and 2002–03. It can be found on the Home Office website, www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0203.html. The Metropolitan police service

(MPS) adopted the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002 and this would affect the comparison of detection rates with earlier years.

Percentage

	Detection rate	
	2001–02	*2002–03*
London Borough of Redbridge		
Violence against the person	21	19
Robbery	8	11
Burglary	6	8
Theft of a vehicle	7	6
Theft from a vehicle	1.5	1.4
London Borough of Waltham Forest		
Violence against the Person	27	28
Robbery	9	10
Burglary	8	10
Theft of a vehicle	9	8
Theft from a vehicle	2.1	1.5

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in the Humberside force were disciplined on charges of *(a)* assault and *(b)* false imprisonment in the last year for which figures are available. [180036]

Ms Blears: Figures are kept for every year. Humberside police have advised that there were no officers disciplined on charges of assault or false imprisonment for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

Prison Volunteers

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours of voluntary service have been carried out by prisoners working on day release in the community in the last year. [182093]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service in England and Wales does not maintain a central record of number of hours of unpaid community work undertaken by prisoners released on temporary licence for this purpose. However, at any one time, about 950 prisoners participate in resettlement regimes that provide the opportunity for regular release on temporary licence in order to undertake unpaid community work.

Prisons in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland respectively.

Racism

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of *(a)* the response of Metropolitan police officers to the race training that they have been offered and *(b)* the effects of the training on perceptions of institutional racism in the force. [180102]

Ms Blears: The Metropolitan police service published an assessment of its own diversity training in December 2003. The Home Office also commissioned two independent studies to assess the impact of community and race relations training on the police service as a whole. They will be published shortly. One of these studies focused on the effect that community and race relations training has had on increasing the trust and confidence in policing among minority ethnic communities. A strategy is currently being developed to build on the investment already made in community and race relations training in the police service. This will help provide a framework to ensure that race and diversity learning and development delivers improved performance in this area.

Whistleblowers' Hotline

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants have contacted his Department's Whistleblowers' hotline since its inception. [180104]

Fiona Mactaggart: There have been eight calls to the telephone hotline set up specifically for staff in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND). There has also been one call to the general hotline serving the non-agency Home Office since both were announced to staff on 30 March 2004.

DEFENCE

Agusta Westland

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the consequences for his defence industrial policy of the proposed acquisition by Finmeccanica of the GKN holding in Agusta Westland. [177258]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Industrial Policy makes clear that the United Kingdom defence industry embraces all defence suppliers that create value, employment, technology or intellectual assets in the UK. This includes both UK and foreign-owned companies; we welcome inward investment into the UK. We remain committed to implementing the Policy and delivering its objectives.

Boards of Inquiry

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what amendments have been made in the last two years to the rules governing boards of inquiry in HM Armed Forces. [176028]

Mr. Ingram: No amendments have been made to either the Board of Inquiry (Air Force) Rules 1956 or Board of Inquiry (Army) Rules 1956 in the last two years. There are no statutory Rules for the Royal Navy. Queen's Regulations for each of the Services contain rules for BOIs. In the last two years these have been amended as follows.

Army—February 2004: to allow (as in the other two Services) more readily for the concurrent running of Army Boards of Inquiry and police investigations, where this would not affect the proper conduct of the police investigation, and generally clarifying some of the factors relevant to whether a Board of Inquiry should be held.

RAF—February 2003: minor clarification of existing rules.

RN—No changes have been made in the last two years.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the hon. Member for West Worcestershire will receive a response to his letter of 18 May (Ref: 02493/2004). [182932]

Mr. Ingram: I wrote to the hon. Member on 6 July.

Defence Export and Market Access Forum

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how the Defence Export and Market Access Forum relates to *(a)* the National Defence Industries Council, *(b)* the National Defence and Aerospace Systems Panel and *(c)* the Aerospace and Innovation Team; and if he will make a statement; [182584]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 30 June 2004, ref 179257, on the Defence Export and Market Access Forum; if he will list the individuals and the companies or trade associations they represent on the Defence Export and Market Access Forum; how many times it has met; and what the subject areas under discussion were. [182562]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Export and Market Access Forum reports to the National Defence Industries Council and complements the National Defence and Aerospace Systems Panel and the Aerospace and Innovation Team. The following Government Departments are represented on the Forum:

Ministry of Defence;
Foreign and Commonwealth Office;
Department of Trade and Industry;
Cabinet Office; and
HM Treasury.

Industry is represented by the following Trade Associations, which include representatives from their member companies:

The Society of British Aerospace Companies;
Defence Manufacturers Association;
Society of Maritime Industries; and
Intellect.

The major defence companies represented at the last meeting, which was held on 17 February 2004, were BAE Systems, Cobham, GKN, Rolls-Royce and Smiths. I am withholding the personal details of the individuals concerned under Exemptions 8 and 12 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information which relate to public employment, public appointments and the privacy of an individual.

There have been three meetings to date and the issues discussed have included defence trade with other countries, export control legislation, market analysis and the contribution of defence exports to the economy.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department in each year since 1997. [181375]

Mr. Caplin: Information on the number of full-time equivalent staff in the department since 1997 is published annually in the "Civil Service Statistics" publication. Copies of the publication are available in the Library and on the Cabinet Office Civil Service Statistics (www.civil-service.gov.uk/statistics) website.

Diego Garcia

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are stationed on Diego Garcia in a *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent capacity; and if he will make a statement. [182581]

Mr. Ingram: 40 UK military personnel are deployed on Diego Garcia and normally undertake 12-month tours.

Intermediate Light Anti-Armour Weapon

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress in introducing the Army's Intermediate Light Anti-Armour Weapon. [181488]

Mr. Ingram: The Interim Light Anti-Armour Weapon (ILAW) is being procured to provide a light, short-range anti-armour capability in advance of the introduction of the Next Generation Light Anti-Armour Weapon (NLAW). Following a competitive down select, the Saab Bofors Dynamics AT4 anti-armour system has been chosen to meet the ILAW requirement. In parallel, the NLAW programme remains on track to meet the long-term requirement.

Iraq

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list each allegation of malpractice in the management of detainees in Iraq made against British forces since 1 May 2003, broken down by date of the allegation; and if he will place in the Library copies of the allegations with personal data removed. [178725]

Mr. Ingram: There have been no allegations of malpractice in the administration of detainees in UK run detention facilities in Iraq. However there has been one allegation of ill treatment of detainees while in the UK run detention facility, the exact nature and date of which is still under investigation. Therefore there are no plans to place the information referred to by the hon. Member in the Library of the House.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 4–5WS, on Iraq, whether any of the 14 investigations initiated since 4 May relate to detention facilities. [179017]

Mr. Ingram: One of the 14 investigations initiated since 4 May relates to the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility at Shaibah.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with security contractors his Department uses for operations in Iraq about them *(a)* being subject to Iraqi law and *(b)* being recipients of immunities following the transfer of sovereignty; and if he will make a statement. [179871]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence does not use security contractors for operations in Iraq. I have not, therefore, had discussions with them on these topics.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the date of each compensation claim arising out of the death of an Iraqi individual allegedly caused by UK forces and whether, in each case, the claim *(a)* has been rejected, *(b)* has been accepted and *(c)* remains to be decided. [177579]

Mr. Ingram: We have so far received 91 claims relating to incidents where it is alleged that the death of an Iraqi individual was caused by the actions of the UK Armed Forces. The date of notification of each compensation claim is as follows:

2003

June: 1, 22, 28, 30 (2 claims)

July: 3, 10, 14 (2 claims), 15 (2 claims), 22, 29

August: 19,23 (7 claims), 29

September: 5, 8 (2 claims), 14, 15, 16, 18 (2 claims), 20

October: 8, 9, 31 (6 claims)

November: 3 (2 claims), 4 (3 claims), 5 (2 claims), 7 (2 claims), 8, 10, 17

December: 1, 2 (2 claims), 12 (2 claims), 15, 17 (2 claims), 18, 31

2004

January: 2, 6, 10, 17 (2 claims), 20, 21 (2 claims), 22, 24,25, 26, 30, 31 (2 claims)

February: 8 (3 claims), 10, 17, 18 (2 claims), 24, 25

March: 10, 24 (3 claims)

April: 3, 27

Thirty-three claims relate to alleged incidents before the end of decisive combat operations (1 May 2003) including 19 claims associated with air raids. 58 claims arise from alleged incidents after 1 May 2003.

Over half of the total number of claims (52) relate to fatal shooting incidents with some incidents leading to multiple claims. Other incidents include fatalities due to road traffic accidents and unexploded ordnance. Four claims relate to deaths in detention.

Fifty-four claims have been rejected, three accepted and 34 remain to be decided.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Status of Forces Agreement being negotiated for troops in Iraq will parallel the Visiting Forces Act 1952 in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [176744]

Mr. Hoon: The Iraqi Government has approved a new version of Coalition Provisional Authority Order 17 to cover Status of Forces issues for Multinational Forces in Iraq. The order's provisions are similar to the provisions of the status offerees arrangements for the multinational forces deployed in Afghanistan and the Balkans, which are closer parallels than the NATO arrangements implemented by the Visiting Forces Act of 1952. A copy of the order can be found at www.cpa-Iraq.org. I am arranging to have a copy placed in the Library of the House.

NATO Commitments

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current commitments of NATO forces are; and if he will make a statement on plans for future commitments. [182399]

Mr. Ingram: NATO currently commits forces to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan; SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina; KFOR in Kosovo; Operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean; and in support of Poland's operation in Iraq. In accordance with the Istanbul Summit Communiqué issued by the Heads of State and Government on 28 June 2004, NATO has decided to expand the ISAF Force in Afghanistan, including through several more Provincial Reconstruction Teams; to conclude its successful SFOR operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; that a robust KFOR presence remains essential in Kosovo; to enhance the contribution of Operation Active Endeavour to the fight against terrorism; and to offer assistance to the Government of Iraq with the training of its security forces.

Nuclear Weapons

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the tritium recovery plant at AWE Aldermaston will provide tritium for United Kingdom nuclear weapons following the decision to close Calder Hall. [182365]

Mr. Ingram: The closure of BNFL's Magnox power station at Calder Hall in Cumbria has no impact on the UK nuclear warhead programme. We have sufficient stocks of tritium to meet all of the foreseeable needs of the UK nuclear weapons programme. This position is kept under review.

Prisons

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints have been made by *(a)* men and *(b)* women held in British-run military and civilian prisons in Iraq as to their treatment while in prison during the last 12 months; how many of these complaints have been heard; how many remain to be heard; how many of these complaints he has seen; and if he will make a statement. [177250]

Mr. Ingram: There is one case under investigation by the Royal Military Police Special Investigations Branch into the treatment of Iraqi civilians held in the British run Divisional Temporary Detention Facility. No women are involved. There are no British run civilian prisons in Iraq.

RAF Cottesmore

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from Forward Support Fixed Wing (Repair Support Squadron) have been permanently posted into RAF Cottesmore to undertake repair tasks now being carried out on Harriers; and what estimate he has made of the cost incurred. [180650]

Mr. Ingram: No personnel from the Forward Support Fixed Wing Detachment have been permanently posted to RAF Cottesmore and no additional costs have been

incurred. However, at any one time there will be a number of personnel from this Detachment engaged in the repair and maintenance of Harrier aircraft at Cottesmore.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the targets were for turn round times set for aircraft repair at RAF Cottesmore for the financial year 2003–04. [181267]

Mr. Ingram: There are no targets set for repair turn round times at RAF Cottesmore. Repair times are agreed on an individual basis according to the extent of the damage and operational requirements. However, within the pulse line any repairs must be assessed, a solution obtained or designed and the repair implemented within an allocated 25-day window. The repair window has been achieved consistently since the formation of the pulse line.

Targets are set for the turn round time of aircraft undergoing scheduled maintenance.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the turn round times were for aircraft repair at RAF Cottesmore in the financial year 2003–04. [181268]

Mr. Ingram: To collect the information necessary to give an accurate assessment of the turn round times would involve manually checking the records of every individual aircraft. This work would be very time consuming and at disproportionate cost.

However, within the pulse line any repairs must be assessed, a solution obtained or designed and the repair implemented within an allocated 25-day window. This repair window has been achieved consistently since the formation of the pulse line.

Royal Navy Chefs

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vacancies there are for chefs in the Royal Navy. [181749]

Mr. Caplin: There are 901 chef posts in the Royal Navy at Able Rate and Leading Chef level and during the first quarter of 2004, a net figure of 39 vacancies was recorded.

Trident

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which countries the *(a)* arming, fusing and firing system components, *(b)* neutron generators and *(c)* gas reservoirs of Trident nuclear warheads are manufactured; and if he will make a statement. [179688]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding the information requested under Exemption 1 (defence, security and international relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which country the gas reservoirs for Trident nuclear warheads are filled with tritium; and if he will make a statement. [179689]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding the information requested under Exemption 1 (defence, security and international relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Troop Deployments (Afghanistan)

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are deployed in Afghanistan. [182926]

Mr. Ingram: There are around 580 British troops currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many additional British troops will be deployed to Afghanistan to extend the use of provincial reconstruction teams; [182928]

(2) how many British troops are to be deployed in Afghanistan to *(a)* provincial reconstruction teams (PRTs) and *(b)* the forward base support for PRTs. [182927]

Mr. Ingram: As part of our commitment to the expansion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) across Northern Afghanistan, the United Kingdom deployed an additional 40 personnel to the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Mazar-e Sharif and Meymaneh, which brought the total number of British troops serving in these Teams to around 130. A Forward Support Base was also established in Mazar to support the PRTs in Northern Afghanistan, requiring the deployment of around a further 130 British troops. As part of our long-term commitment to the sustained expansion of ISAF across Afghanistan, the Prime Minister has also offered to deploy the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC) to command the Force probably in 2006.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Postal Voting (Coventry, South)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people are registered for a permanent postal vote in Coventry, South. [181884]

Mr. Leslie: The Electoral Registration Officer for Coventry City Council has advised that as at June 2004 there were 7,146 registered permanent postal voters in Coventry South constituency.

Salisbury Convention

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what consideration he has given to the Salisbury Convention as part of the review of the powers and functions of the second chamber. [182706]

Mr. Leslie: The Salisbury convention, which sets out the circumstances in which the House of Lords will refrain from using its powers over legislation, is clearly an extremely important element in the relationship between the two Houses. As such, it will play a central part in any consideration of the powers and functions of the second chamber.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Agency Staffing

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the staff-customer ratio is for those contacting or receiving services from *(a)* the Pension Service and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus, broken down by (i) all staff, (ii) staff dealing with customers face-to-face, (iii) call centre staff and (iv) staff processing claims without customer contact. [182531]

Maria Eagle: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Benefit Claimants (Suffolk)

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance in (i) the West Suffolk parliamentary constituency and (ii) the county of Suffolk in each year since 1997. [181797]

Maria Eagle: The information is in the table.

Claimants in Suffolk at dates shown

	County of Suffolk	*West Suffolk parliamentary constituency*
Incapacity benefits[1]		
February 1997	18,200	2,000
February 1998	19,200	1,900
February 1999	18,800	1,900
February 2000	19,200	2,100
February 2001	19,600	1,900
February 2002	19,500	1,900
February 2003	19,700	2,300
February 2004	20,100	2,200
Unemployment-related benefits[2]		
May 1997	14,328	1,553
May 1998	11,558	1,282
May 1999	10,645	1,091
May 2000	8,823	849
May 2001	7,673	680
May 2002	7,363	680
May 2003	8,117	693
May 2004	7,624	666

Notes:
1. Those numbers based on a 5 per cent. sample are subject to a degree of sampling variation and have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
[2] Totals may not sum due to rounding.
[3] Local authorities (LAs) are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
[4] County of Suffolk is made up of the following LAs: Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St. Edmundsbury, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.
[5] Incapacity benefits include incapacity benefit: (IB), severe disablement allowance, and IB credits only cases. Unemployment-related benefits include all Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claims and JSA credit only cases.
Source:
[1] DWP Information Centre, 5 per cent. sample
[2] 100 per cent. Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems

Benefit Payments

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the arrangements will be for the payment of benefits through automated credit transfer when the payment date falls on a bank holiday, including Scottish bank holidays. [175929]

Mr. Pond: The Department ensures that where customers are due payments on a national bank holiday, Direct Payments are advanced, so that they can get the money before the bank holiday. These arrangements include national bank holidays in Scotland.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated percentage take up of *(a)* council tax benefits, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* income support and *(d)* jobseeker's allowance was in each year since 1995. [181256]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the table.

Estimated take-up of income-related benefits, 1995–96 to 2001–02

Percentage

	Income support	*Minimum income guarantee*	*Housing benefit*	*Council tax benefit*	*Jobseeker's allowance*
1995–96					
Case load	76:82	n/a	89:94	74:82	n/a
Expenditure	88:92	n/a	93:96	76:84	n/a
1996–97					
Case load	78:85	n/a	91:99	77:86	69:87
Expenditure	87:95	n/a	92:100	79:88	69:79
1997–98					
Case load	74:84	n/a	94:100	77:86	78:92
Expenditure	85:94	n/a	94:100	79:88	78:88
1998–99					
Case load	79:89	n/a	91:97	75:81	68:82
Expenditure	88:95	n/a	89:95	77:84	75:88
1999–2000					
Case load	77:87	64:78	94:98	73:80	67:78
Expenditure	87:94	74:86	92:97	76:83	74:84

Estimated take-up of income-related benefits, 1995–96 to 2001–02

Percentage

	Income support	*Minimum income guarantee*	*Housing benefit*	*Council tax benefit*	*Jobseeker's allowance*
2000–01					
Case load	86:96	68:76	87:94	70:76	62:71
Expenditure	91:97	78:86	91:96	73:80	69:78
2001–02					
Case load	86:95	63:72	85:91	66:72	51:62
Expenditure	91:98	73:83	89:94	70:76	58:73

Notes:
1. Take-up by case load compares the number of benefit recipients, averaged over the year, with the number who would be receiving if everyone took up their entitlement for the full period of their entitlement.
2. Take-up by expenditure compares the total amount of benefit received, averaged over the year, with the total amount that would be received if everyone took up their entitlement for the full period of their entitlement.
3. Figures are not directly comparable over time as estimates are not recast in light of methodological improvements and changes to benefit rules alter the size of the eligible population.
4. Estimates for income support cover pensioners and non-pensioners up to and including figures for 1999–2000. Estimates for 2000–01 and onwards relate to non-pensioners only. Minimum income guarantee relates to pensioners only and came into effect in 1999–2000.

Source:
DWP "Income-Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up" series.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average response time for applications for *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit is in Scotland, broken down by local authority. [181257]

Mr. Pond: Around 30 per cent. of local authorities in Scotland are processing new claims at, or above, the national standard of 36 days. To help all authorities meet these standards the Government has provided £200 million over three years. So far £60 million has been awarded to nearly 300 local authorities and the average time taken to process a new claim for housing benefit has improved by 10 per cent. compared to 2002–03.

The information is not available in the format requested, the available information is in the table.

Average processing times for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims in Scotland by local authority

Local authority	*Average days to process a claim for housing benefit*	*Average days to process a claim for council tax benefit*
Aberdeen	32	34
Aberdeenshire	49	61
Angus	56	53
Argyll and Bute	55	43
Clackmannanshire	36	40
Dumfries and Galloway	38	48
Dundee	88	90
East Ayrshire	30	29
East Dunbartonshire	64	65
East Lothian	37	34
East Renfrewshire	43	35
Edinburgh	86	82
Falkirk	24	24
Fife	37	39
Glasgow	26	29
Highland	55	53
Inverclyde	69	82
Midlothian	33	32
Moray	60	60
North Ayrshire	79	97
North Lanarkshire	16	16
Orkney	32	35
Perth and Kinross	77	85
Renfrewshire	92	115

Average processing times for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims in Scotland by local authority

Local authority	*Average days to process a claim for housing benefit*	*Average days to process a claim for council tax benefit*
Shetland	34	34
South Ayrshire	54	59
South Lanarkshire	16	15
Stirling	21	26
West Dunbartonshire	46	49
West Lothian	34	34

Notes:
1. Figures given are for the last quarter of the financial year 2003–04.
2. Scottish Borders and the Western Isles did not supply data for this quarter.
3. Data is not collected on the average initial response times for housing benefit and council tax benefit claims.
4. Average days to process is calculated using the elapsed time counted in calendar days from (and including) the day on which a new claim form for housing benefit or council tax benefit is received at any designated office of a local authority to (and including) the day on which that claim is decided.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimates he has made of *(a)* the number of incorrect benefit payments into post office card accounts, and *(b)* failure to pay benefits into post office card accounts; and if he will make a statement. [177527]

Mr. Pond: Over 10 million DWP benefit payments have been credited to post office card accounts since April 2003. As a result of customer error or inputting error, it is estimated that approximately 4,000 payments have been issued with incorrect account details.

All benefit payments issued with valid post office card account details, for direct payment into a card account are credited correctly by the card account bank to the nominated account.

Council Tax Benefit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of housing benefit recipients are also in receipt of council tax benefit. [181934]

Mr. Pond: 89.9 per cent. of housing benefit recipients were also in receipt of council tax benefit in Great Britain at May 2002, the most recent period for which figures are available.

Notes:

1. The figure is based on a 1 per cent. sample and therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The percentage is rounded to one decimal place.
4. Council tax benefit data exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Housing benefit data excludes extended payment cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2002.

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 on *(a)* employment levels of disabled people in the UK and *(b)* the perception of disability by employers. [182537]

Maria Eagle: The Government has not made a specific assessment of the impact of the Disability Discrimination Act on the employment of levels of disabled people in the UK or on the perception of disability by employers. Both will have been influenced by a range of factors. However it is not possible to ascertain to what extent change is due solely to the DDA, against other factors such as shifts in social attitudes, and greater awareness and reporting of disability.

Comparable figures are not available before 1998, however there has been a narrowing of the gap between the employment levels of disabled people and non-disabled people under this Government. Employment levels for disabled people have risen from 46.0 per cent. in winter 1998 (Labour Force Survey, winter quarter 1998) to 49.3 per cent. in winter 2003 (Labour Force Survey, winter quarter 2003). Over the same period the employment levels for non-disabled people rose from 79.8 per cent. to 80.8 per cent.

Recent research on employers' responses to the DDA showed that both the legislation and the moral and business cases for making adjustments have influenced employers. The research found that 83 per cent. of employers that had ever employed a disabled person had made adjustments for disabled employees. Overall, 35 per cent. of employers that had made adjustments for disabled employees reported they had done so partly because of the legal requirement, but they more often cited the moral and business cases for making adjustments.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with disabilities have been helped to enter employment through the New Deal for Disabled People in the last 12 months. [182540]

Jane Kennedy: The latest figures available are for April 2003 to March 2004, during which period 20,400 jobs were gained by participants in the New Deal for Disabled People programme.

Disabled People (Services)

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements he has in place for monitoring statistics concerning the *(a)* (i) numbers and (ii) needs of and *(b)* supply of services to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [182883]

Maria Eagle: The Department currently estimates that there are around 10 million adults in Great Britain who are covered by the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) (source, FRS 2002–3). This estimate will be reviewed on an annual basis. We also use a range of other estimates of the number of disabled people , including the number of disabled people receiving disability benefits. We have recently commissioned an independent review of disability estimates available at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/ih2003–2004/IH128.pdf

The Department uses statistics from several sources, including the Labour Force Survey and Family Resources Survey, which provide information on disabled people's needs in relation to employment, benefits and income. We also conduct a range of social research projects which examine the needs of disabled people.

The Department conducts regular surveys on the use of a range of services by disabled people in Great Britain. We also collect data on receipt of benefits, employment programmes and our own services.

The Disability Rights Commission also commissions research. It commissioned a survey of disabled people's experiences of access to services in Great Britain in summer 2003 as part of work to inform and support its campaign, aimed to raise awareness of new duties on service providers regarding physical access for disabled people under Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.

Girocheque Payments

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of girocheque payments were delayed or lost between 31 March 2002 and 1 April 2003; and how many of these late payments resulted in emergency payments to claimants, broken down by region. [178906]

Mr. Pond: Information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the information, which is available on Girocheques between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003.

1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003

Girocheques issued	43,570,325
Girocheques reported not received, lost, stolen or destroyed	288,999
Number of Girocheques reported not received, lost, stolen or missing as a percentage of Girocheques issued	0.66

Customers who suffer hardship as a result of delayed or lost girocheques can apply for a payment from the Social Fund. We do not keep specific data on the number of customers who apply to the Social Fund for this reason.

Honours

Brian White: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much time his Department spent dealing with honours in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by Civil Service grade. [173046]

Maria Eagle: The estimated time spent dealing with Honours in the Department from April 2003 to March 2004, broken down by Civil Service grade is shown in the table.

The majority of the work on Honours is undertaken by the Departmental Honours team and senior staff involved in selection and sift panels. Time spent in preparation for selection and sift panels is not included. Information is not available on time spent on Honours related work by other staff in the Department and its Agencies.

Grade	*Time/hours*
Permanent Secretary and equivalent grades	26
Grade 2	14
Grade 3	18
Grade 4	6
Grade 5	8
HEO	32
EO x 1 (DWP Honours Secretary)	Full time

Housing Benefit (Swale)

Mr. Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to put the administration of housing benefit in Swale out to tender; [182979]

(2) what plans he has to improve the administration of housing benefit at Swale Borough Council. [182980]

Mr. Pond: The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate is currently carrying out an inspection of benefit administration and counter-fraud activity in Swale Borough Council, with a report expected to be published in October 2004.

Once the authority has had the opportunity to respond to the report, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will consider what further action needs to be taken.

Invalid Care Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households there are where more than one person claims invalid care allowance. [182748]

Maria Eagle: Invalid Care Allowance was renamed Carer's Allowance from April 2003. The information requested is not available.

National Insurance Rebates

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 26 May to the right hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts), *Official Report*, columns 1717–18W, on National Insurance, if he will estimate the distribution of national insurance rebates by *(a)* income decile or income quartile, *(b)* region and *(c)* country. [181994]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is not available.

Parliamentary Questions

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions his Department received in (i) the 2002–03 session and (ii) this session. [182720]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the table.

Parliamentary question received

	Ordinary written questions	*Named day questions*
13 November 2002 to November 2003	2,568	570
26 November 2003 to July 2004	1,730	444

Pension Credit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pension credit recipients in each region receive *(a)* the severe disability premium and *(b)* the carer's premium. [181930]

Malcolm Wicks: The information, to the most recent date for which it is available, is set out in the following table.

Percentage of pension credit recipients also receiving severe disability or carer's prescribed additional amount, by region, February 2004

percentage

Government office region	*Severe disability additional amount as percentage of all pension credit recipients (households)*	*Carer's additional amount as percentage of all pension credit recipients (households)*
Great Britain	22	4
North East	22	5
North West	26	5
Yorkshire and The Humber	20	4
East Midlands	21	4
West Midlands	23	5
East of England	22	4
London	18	3
South East	16	3
South West	21	4
Wales	29	5
Scotland	27	4

Notes:
1. Percentages are given to the nearest whole number.
2. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to sampling variation.

Pension Provision

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of individuals who are contributing to pension provision in *(a)* funded occupational pensions, *(b)* personal pensions and *(c)* unfunded occupational pensions. [182123]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2000 there were some 10 million active members of occupational pension schemes in the UK, 5.7 million in private sector schemes and 4.5 million in public sector schemes including some 1.5 million in the funded local Government pension schemes.

In 2001–02 there were some 5 million people making some contribution, individual or employer or both, to a personal or stakeholder pension. Some of these may also have been active members of an occupational pension scheme. In addition, around 0.5 million people were contributing to retirement annuity contracts.

Notes:

1. Estimates of active members of private and public occupational pension schemes are taken from the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey 2000 conducted by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD).

2. The number of public sector members in funded local government pension schemes is an unpublished Government estimate.

3. An "active" member of an occupational pension scheme is someone who is at present accruing benefits under that scheme in respect of current service, through individual or employer contributions, or both. It is possible for an individual to be an active member of more than one occupational pension scheme.

4. Estimates of the numbers of people contributing to personal and stakeholder pensions or retirement annuity contracts are based on Inland Revenue administrative data.

Savings Credits

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answers to the hon. Members for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) and for Northavon (Mr. Webb), 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1308–11W, if he will set out the contribution to net costs from the abolition of savings credits for those years on the assumptions given. [181997]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is in the following table.

£ billion

	Saving from SC abolition for those aged 80 or over	*Saving from SC abolition for those aged 70 or above*	*Saving from SC abolition for those aged 75 or above*
2006–07	0.4	0.7	0.6
2007–08	0.5	0.8	0.6
2008–09	0.5	0.8	0.7
2009–10	0.5	0.9	0.7
2010–11	0.6	1.0	0.8
2011–12	0.6	1.0	0.9
2012–13	0.7	1.1	0.9
2013–14	0.7	1.2	1.0
2014–15	0.8	1.3	1.1
2015–16	0.8	1.4	1.1

Notes:

1. Figures are for Great Britain in 2004–05 price terms, using the GDP deflator index, rounded to the nearest £100 million.

2. The savings credit is abolished for those above each age specified in each question from April 2006 with no payments to existing pensioners and no new recipients after 2006. The savings from savings credit are calculated using the Department's policy simulation model for 2006–07.

3. In modelling these options it is assumed that the proportion of savings relative to gross state pension costs in the first year is constant in subsequent years; therefore these figures should not be treated as forecasts of savings credit expenditure for different age groups.

4. The savings given reflect the changes to savings credit expenditure and do not include the effects of other benefits which may be affected by the abolition of the savings credit.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

British Indian Ocean Territories

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provision he has put in place to monitor activity on Diego Garcia to ensure full implementation of the Ottawa Convention; how many breaches have been reported since 1 January 2001; what mechanisms are in place to deal with possible breaches and when these arrangements were last revised; and if he will make a statement. [182542]

Mr. MacShane: The Government have made clear to the US authorities that the UK would be unable to allow the US to bring anti-personnel landmines onto Diego Garcia because that would place the UK in breach of its obligations under the Ottawa Convention. In response, the Government have received assurances from US officials that no anti-personnel landmines are stored on Diego Garcia and that the US will continue to respect the UK's international treaty obligations. There have been no reported breaches since the UK became a State Party to the Ottawa Convention on 1 March 1999.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the European Convention of Human Rights applies to the British Indian Ocean Territories; and if he will make a statement. [182548]

Mr. Rammell: The European Convention on Human Rights does not apply to the British Indian Ocean Territory. The Territory has no settled population and there are no plans to extend the Convention to the Territory.

Bulgaria

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether BAe Systems has been asked to co-operate with an investigation by the Military Appeal Investigation Court in Bulgaria into the tender procedure for refurbishment of helicopters. [182654]

Mr. MacShane: The British embassy in Sofia has not been contacted by the Military Appeal Investigation Court about such an investigation. The embassy has been in contact with BAe Systems, who have told us that they have not been contacted either.

China

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to urge the Chinese authorities to release all aid workers who have been imprisoned for helping North Korean refugees hiding in China, with particular reference to Takayuki Noguchi. [182554]

Mr. Rammell: We are concerned by reports of individuals being imprisoned by the Chinese authorities for helping North Korean refugees. In the case of Takayuki Noguchi, Japanese officials have requested his swift return to Japan. It is likely that he will be released in August at the end of his sentence.

We regularly raise the issue of North Korean refugees with the Chinese, including at the biannual UK/China Human Rights Dialogue, the latest round of which was held on 13 and 14 May. I also raised the issue in my meeting with Zhang Zhijin, the Deputy Director of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party, in March.

We continue to urge China to observe its obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention. The Chinese Government maintain that North Koreans who enter China illegally are economic migrants and not refugees. A long-standing bilateral agreement with North Korea enables China to repatriate these border crossers.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to use the arbitration clause in its bilateral treaty with China as a means of pressing the Chinese authorities to permit the UNHCR full access to North Korean refugees in China. [182555]

Mr. Rammell: The UK believes that China should treat refugees in accordance with the 1951 Convention on the status of refugees to which it is a contracting state. We continue to urge China to allow the UNHCR access to the border areas and to observe its obligations under the 1967 Additional Protocol to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

We fully support the UNHCR's efforts on behalf of North Korean refugees in China and we regularly raise this issue with the Chinese during our biannual human rights dialogue, the latest round of which was held on 13/14 May. The Bilateral agreement between China and the UNHCR was signed on the establishment of a UNHCR country office and UNHCR consider that it is not intended as a mechanism to discuss asylum issues.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to urge the Government of China *(a)* to recognise North Korean refugees in China as refugees and *(b)* to end the policy of forcibly repatriating these North Koreans. [182556]

Mr. Rammell: We regularly raise the issue of North Korean border crossers with the Chinese including at the latest round of the biannual UK/China Human Rights Dialogue on 13/14 May 2004. I raised the issue of North Korean border crossers in my meeting with Zhang Zhijin, the Deputy Director of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party in March.

We are concerned by reports of the forced repatriation of North Koreans by China and have urged China to fully implement the provisions of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, and co-operate closely with the UNHCR to help resolve disagreement over the status of North Korean border-crossers.

The Chinese Government maintains that North Koreans who enter China illegally are economic migrants and not refugees. A long-standing bilateral agreement with North Korea enables China to repatriate these border crossers.

Cyprus

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 55W, on Cyprus, for what reason the status of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus London Representative Office will not be upgraded. [179522]

Mr. MacShane: The UK's policy of not formally recognising the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" has not changed.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 55W, on Cyprus, what steps the Government have taken within the European Union to promote the amendment of legislation restricting trade and communications with Northern Cyprus. [179541]

Mr. MacShane: Following discussion amongst EU Foreign Ministers at the 26 April General Affairs and External Relations Council, the Council agreed to "put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community". The UK gave its full support to this language, which provides the basis for the EU's on-going efforts to open up trade and communications with the north of Cyprus. The Commission was invited to bring forward comprehensive proposals to this end.

On 28 April the EU agreed a new regulation on trade across the Green Line aimed at encouraging trade between the two communities in Cyprus. The UK is continuing to work closely with the Commission as it formulates its proposals on trade with the north and works to ensure effective implementation on the ground of the provisions of the Green Line Regulation.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 7 June, *Official Report*, column 56W, on Northern Cyprus, for what reason HM Government will not take steps to promote the repeal of UN Security Council Resolution 541. [179557]

Mr. MacShane: UN Security Council Resolution 541 remains valid. We therefore have no reason to take steps to repeal it.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 7 June, *Official Report*, column 56W, on Cyprus, if HM Government will *(a)* request the President of the UN Security Council to issue an invitation to Turkish Cypriot elected leaders to address the Security Council and *(b)* support an invitation from the UN Security Council for Turkish Cypriot elected leaders to address the Security Council under Article 32 of the Charter. [179558]

Mr. MacShane: We have no plans to make such a request. As made clear in the previous answer, we would have no objection to elected leaders of the Turkish Cypriot community being invited to the UN Security Council in that capacity.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government are providing for those judicial commissions which are investigating human rights outrages in Democratic Republic of Congo and Northern Uganda. [181480]

Mr. Rammell: The International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor announced the first formal ICC investigation on 23 June. No such decision has yet been taken with respect to northern Uganda. The ICC's examination of both situations is, therefore, at an early stage.

The UK is a firm supporter of the ICC. We stand ready to consider the provision of diplomatic, practical and moral support to the ICC, on request, to enable the Court to function effectively. We have already expressed our willingness to provide such support and officials are considering various practical options.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182150]

Mr. Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no empty houses in the United Kingdom. Because routine management of the overseas estate is devolved to our overseas Posts, it is not possible to identify empty houses overseas without incurring disproportionate costs.

It is the FCO's policy to limit empty properties overseas to one of four categories: *(a)* those that must be vacated while undergoing refurbishment or adaptation; *(b)* those that are surplus and in the process of disposal; *(c)* those we cannot occupy because of a break in diplomatic relations or a similar eventuality, but which we expect to need in the future; and *(d)* those that are unoccupied during short gaps between officers' overseas tours.

EU Constitution

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* wording and *(b)* article numbers of that wording are of each extension of qualified majority voting in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy contained in the text of the EU constitution. [182960]

Mr. MacShane: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe confirms that unanimity shall remain the general rule for decisions in Common Foreign and Security Policy. Article III-201.2 sets out the exceptions to this rule; this includes the existing areas of qualified majority voting and provides for the Council to act by qualified majority voting:

> "when adopting a European decision defining a Union action or position, on a proposal which the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs has presented following a specific request to him or her from the European Council, made on its own initiative or that of the Minister;" (Article III-201.2*(b)*)

The European Council operates at unanimity.

Article I-27.1 provides for the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs to be appointed by qualified majority. This replicates current arrangements where the High Representative is appointed by qualified majority. The wording for Article I-27.1 is:

> "The European Council, acting by qualified majority, with the agreement of the President of the Commission, shall appoint the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs. The European Council may end his or her term of office by the same procedure."

Full-time Staff

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department in each year from 1997. [181233]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of UK based staff employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including Wilton Park, since 1997 is as follows:

	Number
1997	5,539
1998	5,412
1999	5,485
2000	5,480
2001	5,490
2002	5,680
October 2003	5,990

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's single agency, Wilton Park, reported the following figures:

	Number
1997	35
1998	37
1999	39
2000	40
2001	50
2002	60
2003	60

Iraq

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the British members of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB) are; how long he expects the IAMB to stay in existence; and when he expects to present to Parliament a report from the IAMB on its work. [182106]

Mr. Rammell: The UK has no members on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB). The IAMB is an independent body established by the United Nations Security Council in UNSCR 1483 of 22 May 2003. Under UNSCR 1483, it was agreed that the membership of the IAMB would consist of representatives of the UN Secretary General, the Managing Director of the IMF, the Director-General of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the President of the World Bank. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546 of 8 June 2004, the Security Council subsequently agreed that the IAMB should also include a voting member designated by the Government of Iraq.

UNSCR 1546 also decided that the role of the IAMB in monitoring the Development Fund for Iraq (DPI) shall be reviewed at the request of the Iraqi Interim Government or by 8 June 2005. The role of the IAMB will expire once a constitutionally elected government takes power by 31 December 2005.

The IAMB is expected to issue its first report following the Board's next meeting on 14 and 15 July. The report and its finding will be put into the public domain, including the IAMB website (www.iamb.info).

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the rate of inflation in Iraq during the period of Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) rule; and what changes there were in charges for *(a)* petrol, *(b)* water and *(c)* electricity during the period of CPA rule. [182107]

Mr. Rammell: Due to hand-recording of information, data for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as defined in Iraq are available only some months in arrears. However, based on an index of 100 in January 2003 the following monthly values for the CPI were recorded for the period end June 2003 to February 2004:

	Value
End June 2003	131.4
August 2003	110.6
September 2003	123.7
October 2003	130.1
November 2003	132.8
December 2003	135.8
January 2004	135.1
February 2004	128.0

It is likely that this pattern reflects the early appreciation of the Iraqi Dinar over this period and the subsequent stability of the Dinar: Dollar exchange rate, which has resulted in a fall in the cost of imported goods.

The Coalition Provisional Authority made no changes to the charges levied for petrol, water or electricity.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the British members of the Progress Review Board were during the period of the Iraqi Coalition Provisional Authority; and from which enterprises or agency they were drawn. [182109]

Mr. Rammell: The UK had one voting member on the Programme Review Board during the tenure of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). Senior officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development filled this role.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the new Iraqi Government intend to implement Resolution 137 adopted by the Iraqi Governing Council. [181943]

Mr. Rammell: We are not aware of any plans by the Interim Iraqi Government to implement Resolution 137 on the application of the rules of Shari'a (Islamic) law in the personal status code. Resolution 137 was repealed by the Iraqi Governing Council. However, this is a matter for the new Iraqi Government.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the new Iraqi Government have made an explicit commitment to equal rights for women. [181944]

Mr. Rammell: Article 12 of the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL) states that:

"All Iraqis are equal in their rights without regard to gender, sect, opinion, belief, nationality, religion, or origin, and they are equal before the law. Discrimination against an Iraqi citizen on the basis of his gender, nationality, religion, or origin is prohibited. Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the security of his person. No one may be deprived of his life or liberty, except in accordance with legal procedures. All are equal before the courts."

It is clear from our continued dialogue with the Interim Iraqi Government, in place since 1 June, that there is a clear Iraqi commitment to ensuring the rights of all Iraqis, in line with Article 12 of the TAL and UNSCR 1546.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of Iraq's oil revenues during Coalition Provisional Authority rule. [182420]

Mr. Rammell: Over the period 28 May 2003 to 24 June 2004, total proceeds from Iraq's oil exports were US$11.1 billion. During the Coalition's tenure all revenue from the sale of Iraq's oil was paid into the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), which was established on 22 May 2003. Information on the revenues, disbursements and account balances of the DFI during the Coalition Provisional Authority's tenure can be found at: http://www.cpa-iraq.org/budget/DFI_intro1.html

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) on what date the signals intelligence referred to in paragraph 89 of Cm 5972 shows that an Iraqi official visited Niger; and if he will name the Iraqi official referred to; [182604]

(2) whether the signals intelligence referred to in paragraph 89 of Cm 5972 concerning a visit by an Iraqi official to Niger was passed on to the International Atomic Energy Agency. [182618]

Mr. MacShane *[holding answer 7 July 2004]:* As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated in his reply to my hon. Friend on 6 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1733W, it would not be appropriate to comment publicly on the detail of this intelligence reporting. The security and intelligence services are not within the scope of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (Part 1, Paragraph 6).

Middle East Peace Process

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Syria about the Middle East Peace Process. [R] [182043]

Mr. Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with Syrian interlocutors focusing on the Middle East Peace Process. However, my noble Friend the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean discussed a wide range of issues, including the Middle East Peace Process, with the

Syrian Government during her visit to Damascus on 8 to 9 June. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are also in regular contact with the Syrian Government on this issue.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister in his Department on official departmental business. [181874]

Mr. Straw: There is no central record of miles flown by each Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, on official departmental business.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Mordechai Vanunu

Mr. Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli Government regarding continuing speech and travel restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu; and if he will make a statement. [181978]

Mr. Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations to the Israeli Government about the restrictions placed upon Mordechai Vanunu. However, my noble Friend the Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean has raised our concerns with the Israeli Chargé d'Affaires, as has our Ambassador in Tel Aviv with the Israeli Government. We recognise that Israel has a right to protect its national interest but we are concerned that the restrictions may be excessive and punitive.

Mordechai Vanunu was released on 21 April 2004. He is subject to limitations on his movements: he cannot leave Israel; he must inform Israeli authorities of his residence; and he cannot have any contact with foreigners. The restriction on foreign travel will be reviewed after a year, the other restrictions after six months. Mr. Vanunu is challenging these restrictions through the Israeli courts. Mr. Vanunu is currently staying at the Anglican cathedral in Jerusalem.

Nepal

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position was taken by the British Government on Nepal at the 2004 meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights; and what the text was of the chairperson's statement on Nepal. [182959]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK welcomed the Chairman's statement on the need to improve the human rights situation in Nepal, which was issued with the backing of the Royal Nepalese Government. We will be working to support the Nepalese Government in its implementation of its commitments mentioned in that statement. The full text of the Chairman's statement has been placed in the Library of the House.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Israeli soldiers have been charged with unlawfully killing unarmed civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [181932]

Mr. Rammell: To the best of our knowledge, four Israeli Defence Force soldiers have been charged with the unlawful killing of unarmed civilians in the Occupied Territories.

Oil for Food Programme

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what investigations are taking place into possible misuse of the UN Oil for Food Programme; and what UK Government involvement is in those investigations, including forensic audit work by UK citizens and enterprises. [182108]

Mr. Rammell: In April 2004 the UN Secretary-General appointed a high-level independent inquiry into allegations of misadministration and corruption of the UN's Oil for Food Programme. The inquiry was unanimously endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1538 adopted on 21 April 2004. The Government supports the inquiry into these serious allegations, and is co-operating fully through all appropriate means with the inquiry. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office met the Head of the UN inquiry, Paul Volcker, in London in May.

Separately, before the hand-over of authority in Iraq on 28 June, the Coalition Provisional Authority called for an investigation into the allegations under the auspices of the Iraqi Board of Supreme Audit. In May 2004, auditors Ernst and Young won the contract to undertake the Iraqi investigation.

The Government are aware that committees of the US Senate and Congress have also made inquiries into the allegations, and UK officials have met committee representatives in London, Washington and New York. The Government continues to follow developments in the UN inquiry, and any information received by the Government are being passed to the appropriate authorities for their consideration.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181347]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 1999 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) introduced a new pay and grading structure covering all but the most senior grades. Copies of the short documents setting out the results of this review will be placed in the Library of the House. No such documents exist for the non-departmental bodies for which the FCO is responsible, but they broadly follow the same system.

In 2004, the FCO introduced a new pay system for the Senior Management Structure, in line with arrangements introduced in 2002 for the Senior Civil Service. A copy of the guidance issued to staff will be placed in the Library of the House.

The FCO's Equal Pay Action Plan was submitted to the Cabinet Office in 2003. When discussion on it has been completed it is our intention to place it in the Library of the House.

PFI/PPP Contracts

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182263]

Mr. Rammell: Five contracts for advice on PPP and PFI contracts were awarded to ATOS KPMG during the period in question. These are set out as follows:

Financial Year	*Project*	*Amount (£)*
2003–2004	(1) Value For Money review of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Telecommunications Network	45,000
2201–2002	(1–4)Development of 'Future Firecrest',	1,120,000
2002–2003	the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's	1,450,000
1 April 2003 to date	next generation network computer system (four separate contracts).	2,959,000

No contracts have been let to the other companies mentioned.

Polisario Front

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has held with the Polisario Front about proposals to seek prisoner release. (181377)

Mr. Rammell *[pursuant to his reply, 1 July 2004, Official Report, c. 432W]:* Due to an administrative error, an incorrect answer was given to my hon. Friend's question. The answer should read as follows.

Ministers and officials regularly call upon the parties to the Western Sahara dispute to take action on human rights issues.

We have, along with our EU partners, made recent representations to the Polisario Front through the Irish EU Presidency urging the immediate release of the remaining Moroccan prisoners of war in their custody.

The United Kingdom continues to seek a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution to the Western Sahara dispute that provides the people of the Western Sahara with an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination.

Rwanda

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Rwanda concerning the reopening of the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. [182435]

Mr. Mullin: I raised the reopening of Rwanda's border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for humanitarian access when I met President Kagame in Kigali on 24 June. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn) raised the same point when he spoke to President Kagame on 29 June. The Rwandan Government announced that they had re-opened their border with the DRC on 3 July.

Spain (English-speaking Lawyers)

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will add to his Department's website list the contact details for English speaking lawyers who will assist British subjects in Spain. [181940]

Mr. Mullin: Contact details for English speaking lawyers in the consular districts covered by our Consulates in Madrid, Las Palmas de Gran Canada, Palma de Mallorca and Tenerife, are already available on the British Embassy's "UK in Spain" website www.ukinspain.com. A link to this site can be found under the Travel Advice section for Spain on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website www.fco.gov.uk.

I have asked our Consulates in Alicante, Barcelona, Bilbao and Malaga to add details of lawyers in their districts to the "UK in Spain" site.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to prevent the passage of legislation that will ban religious conversion and proselytising. [182563]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our High Commission in Colombo is following the situation closely. Freedom of religion is enshrined in the Sri Lankan constitution, and we have urged the authorities to ensure that the rights of all religious minorities in Sri Lanka are respected. High Commission staff have regular contact with the main Christian leaders, who have until recently advised against formal representations to the Sri Lankan authorities. The Catholic Bishops and the National Christian Council issued a joint statement on 29 June, which acknowledged the problem of unethical conversions, but argued that enacting legislation was not the solution. We will shortly be considering with EU partners whether further action might be appropriate.

Street Children (South America)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to urge the Governments of *(a)* Honduras, *(b)* Brazil and *(c)* Guatemala swiftly to prosecute and punish all those responsible for the murder of street children; [182558]

(2) what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to urge the Governments of *(a)* Honduras and *(b)* Brazil to improve the living conditions of juvenile detainees; [182559]

(3) what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to urge the Government of Brazil to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in that country and to bring the perpetrators of such exploitation to justice. [182560]

Mr. Rammell: We have made clear to the Governments of Brazil, Honduras and Guatemala, bilaterally and with our EU partners, the importance we attach to respect for human rights, including those of children. We closely monitor the progress being made by the authorities in these countries on this issue and, in particular, on bringing those responsible for the murders of street children to justice.

The chronic and well documented situation faced by street children in Brazil is a matter of concern and forms a regular part of our human rights dialogue with the Brazilian Government. The UK supports a number of practical projects in Brazil including human rights training for the Brazilian police and prison services; a small arms project in the slum areas of Rio de Janeiro; and work in Rio on giving people alternatives to involvement in violent and organised crime. While not exclusively focused on street children, these projects are relevant to many of the problems they face.

I raised the plight of street children, and more generally the importance of protecting human rights, with the new Guatemalan Government during my visit there in January and with the Honduran Security Minister Oscar Alvarez during his visit to the UK in March. The UK and EU partners recently issued a statement at the Consultative Group meeting for Honduras in Tegucigalpa, which amongst other things, encouraged the Honduran Government to continue the progress made on improving human rights, making reference to the rights of children.

The UK has also supported projects in Guatemala and Honduras to improve the conditions of and protect vulnerable children.

Venezuela

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* United States of America Government officials and *(b)* Colombian Government officials regarding Venezuela since May 2004; what the nature of such discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [182746]

Mr. Rammell: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London and at the British embassies in Washington and Bogota maintain regular contact with officials from the US and Colombian Governments on a wide range of matters, including the situation in Venezuela.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Venezuelan Government officials regarding *(a)* the forthcoming presidential recall referendum on 15 August and *(b)* the charges laid against 64 Colombian nationals in Venezuela in June; and if he will make a statement. [182747]

Mr. Rammell: None. However, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials, both in London and at the British embassy in Caracas hold regular discussions with Venezuelan Government officials about various issues, including those raised by the hon. Member.

Welsh/Gaelic Languages

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for recognition of Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic under Article IV of the EU Constitutional Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [182315]

Mr. MacShane: Article IV-10 provides a mechanism which enables member states to translate the Treaty into languages that are officially recognised in all or part of their territory and place a copy of this translation in the archives of the Council. The Government will consider into which languages they will translate the Treaty nearer the time of the publication of an official version of the Treaty.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with President Mbeki of South Africa about the future of Zimbabwe. [182045]

Mr. Mullin: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 11 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 143. There have been no further discussions with President Mbeki since then. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed Zimbabwe with the South African Foreign Minister on 12 June.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortions

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the number of terminations conducted in the Province on account of *(a)* foot deformities, *(b)* cleft lips and *(c)* cleft palate in each of the last five years. [181540]

Angela Smith: The Abortion Act 1967 does not extend to Northern Ireland. Consequently the termination of a pregnancy is not permitted except where necessary to save the life of the mother or where continuation of the pregnancy would involve risk of serious injury to her physical or mental health.

Caesarean Sections

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the *(a)* numbers and *(b)* proportion of caesarean section operations in obstetric private practice. [182621]

Angela Smith: Information on the numbers and proportion of caesarean section operations in obstetric private practice is not available.

Carers and Direct Payments Act

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made by each *(a)* health and social service board and *(b)* health trust towards the implementation of the Carers and Direct Payments (Northern Ireland) Act 2002. [182089]

Angela Smith: The Carers and Direct Payments (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 came fully into effect on 19 April 2004. The Department has consulted on and issued detailed guidance to Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts on delivering the key provisions of the Act. We are continuing to work with HPSS professionals, service users and carers to ensure that the full benefits of the legislation are realised and I have made specific reference to Carers and Direct Payments in my 2004–05 Priorities for Action for the HPSS.

Complementary Medicine

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on complementary medical therapies available on the NHS in Northern Ireland. [182620]

Angela Smith: Interest in complementary therapies has increased in recent years. Trusts are providing some complementary and alternative therapies, mainly for people with cancer and for those with learning disabilities.

The Department's view is that the HPSS should make available only those therapies which are statutorily regulated, or have a powerful mechanism for voluntary self-regulation, by reference from doctors and other health care professionals working in primary, secondary or tertiary care. In addition, complementary therapies provided on the HPSS should have appropriate evidence of efficacy to support their clinical and cost-effectiveness and must be provided by accredited practitioners with appropriate training and qualifications.

However, in the final analysis it must be for HPSS clinicians or health care practitioners with lead clinical responsibility for the individual patient to judge whether, when and how an individual patient could benefit from the use of a particular therapy. Wherever possible the patient should be actively involved in this process and in any agreed plan for his or her treatment.

Down's Syndrome

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* births and *(b)* terminations of babies with Down's Syndrome there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [181537]

Angela Smith: The number of children born each year with Down's Syndrome is shown in the following table.

Number of Down's Syndrome births, 1999–2003

	Number of births
1999	27
2000	32
2001	36
2002	34
2003[1]	32

[1] Figures not yet published by CMO
Source: Northern Ireland Child Health System

The Abortion Act 1967 does not extend to Northern Ireland. Consequently the termination of a pregnancy is not permitted except whether necessary to save the life of the mother or where continuation of the pregnancy would involve risk of serious injury to her physical or mental health.

Educational Opportunities (Working-class Children)

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to improve educational opportunities for children from working-class backgrounds in the province. [182969]

Mr. Gardiner: My aim is to ensure that all children and young people in Northern Ireland are educated to the highest possible standards. The priorities and plans for future years reflect my determination to deliver real improvements for all and to assist the most disadvantaged. There are a number of current programmes that specifically support children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds including the School Support Programme, the Reading Recovery Programme, and the provision of summer literacy and numeracy schemes. Additional funding to promote access is provided through the FE funding formula, and a range of widening access programmes encourages young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into further and higher education.

In addition, major reforms to the curriculum and post-primary arrangements will seek to maximise the opportunities for all children and young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182146]

Mr. Pearson: Northern Ireland Departments are responsible for 14 vacant houses. These properties belong to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Northern Ireland Office.

Grammar Schools

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what account he took of the public consultation in Northern Ireland on reform of the 11-plus about the future of grammar schools in Northern Ireland. [182425]

Mr. Gardiner: The Post-Primary Review Working Group was required by its remit to take account of the responses to all strands of the consultation on the Burns Report. The survey showed that 57 per cent. of respondents wanted an end to the 11-plus. The Government has accepted the advice of the Post-Primary Review Working Group as a sound basis for future post-primary arrangements.

HIV/AIDS

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sufferers from *(a)* HIV and *(b)* AIDS there are in Northern Ireland. [182624]

Angela Smith: At 31 March 2004, there were an estimated *(a)* 290 HIV infected individuals and *(b)* 106 AIDS cases in Northern Ireland. The figures refer to the cumulative numbers of persons diagnosed with HIV or AIDS in Northern Ireland. Some persons who are no longer living in Northern Ireland may be included.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of HIV were diagnosed in Northern Ireland between 1 January and 30 June. [182625]

Angela Smith: Information is not available on the number of HIV cases diagnosed between 1 January and 30 June. However, during the calendar year 2003, there were 31 HIV affected individuals diagnosed.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181860]

Mr. Pearson: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Police Service

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the baseline is against which the Police Service's target of achieving a five per cent. reduction in complaints under section 52 (4) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 will be assessed. [181181]

Mr. Pearson: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has advised that their target of a 5 per cent. reduction in complaints by March 2005 will be assessed against the number of complaints received by the Police Ombudsman in year 2003–2004, which was 2,977.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* police officers available for duty, *(b)* officers available for duty who are full-time reservists and *(c)* civilian staff employed by the police there are in each district command. [181182]

Mr. Pearson: Details of the total number of police officers available for duty (both regular and FTR) and the number of civilian staff employed by the police in each district command are as follows. Details have also been supplied of officers attached to crime operations and roads policing as these officers perform operational duty in district command units, even though they are attached to headquarters departments.

Actual number of regulars and full-time reservists in district command units as at 29 June 2004

Region/division	*Regulars*	*Full-time reservists*	*Totals*
Rural			
Armagh	127	51	178
Banbridge	92	21	113
Ballymena	139	18	157
Ballymoney	63	12	75
Coleraine	130	30	160
Cookstown	87	24	111
Craigavon	190	41	231
Dungannon and South Tyrone	136	40	176
Down	168	49	217
Fermanagh	174	53	227
Foyle	253	61	314
Limavady	79	21	100
Magherafelt	89	42	131
Moyle	28	10	38
Newry and Mourne	190	54	244
Omagh	127	30	157
Strabane	107	39	146
Urban			
Antrim	137	48	185
Ards	145	38	183
Belfast East	207	122	329
Belfast North	345	79	424
Belfast South	357	88	445
Belfast West	243	136	379
Carrickfergus	75	39	114
Castlereagh	129	58	187
Larne	75	15	90
Lisburn	217	76	293
Newtownabbey	154	22	176
North Down	160	48	208
Grand total	4,423	1,365	5,788

Actual numbers of regulars and full-time reservists attached to crime operations in headquarters and roads policing in regions

	Regulars	*Full-time reservists*	*Totals*
Crime operations	1,182	1	1,183
Roads policing			
Rural	125	—	125
Urban	108	—	108
Grand total	1,415	1	1,416

Actual number of civilian staff employed in each district command unit (civilian, agency and external funded staff)

Region/division	*Total*
Rural	
Armagh	46
Banbridge	42
Ballymena	57
Ballymoney	30
Coleraine	54
Cookstown	41
Craigavon	82
Dungannon and South Tyrone	42
Down	57
Fermanagh	71
Foyle	109
Limavady	31
Magherafelt	33
Moyle	8
Newry and Mourne	60
Omagh	47
Strabane	31
Urban	
Antrim	40
Ards	60
Belfast East	72
Belfast North	103
Belfast South	156
Belfast West	68
Carrickfergus	30
Castlereagh	40
Larne	29
Lisburn	74
Newtownabbey	42
North Down	51
Grand total	1,606

Actual numbers of civilian staff employed in crime operations in headquarters and roads policing in regions (civilian, agency and external funded staff)

	Totals
Crime operations	504
Roads policing	
Rural	12
Urban	8
Grand total	524

Sports Institute

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with regard to the establishment of the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland; and whether the institute plans to include a 50 m swimming pool in the development proposals. [182610]

Angela Smith: Services for high performance athletes have been provided through the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland since July 2001. These include strength and conditioning advice, physiotherapy and injury management, sports medicine, sports science, athlete career and education and high performance planning. A capital investment programme is currently being finalised which will include facilities for athletes from a wide range of sports. There are currently no plans to include a 50 m pool within the institute.

Windsor Park

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment was made of whether Windsor Park was of a sufficient standard to host international football matches during the development of the Football Strategy. [182612]

Angela Smith: The Soccer Strategy Advisory Panel in its report, "Creating A Soccer Strategy for Northern Ireland" published in October 2001, considered no stadium in Northern Ireland, including Windsor Park, to be of a sufficient standard to host international football matches. In response to the Panel's report, the governing body of soccer in Northern Ireland, the Irish Football Association (IFA), produced a Development Plan for football in May 2003. This contains a cost proposal for upgrading Windsor Park to the required standard and also includes a statement declaring the IFA's interest in a shared, multi-purpose facility, capable of hosting international football matches.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will list authorities which have brought in an independent agency to review cases of children taken into care; [178358]

(2) how many care orders have so far been lifted this year as a result of his review into cases of children taken into care on account of expert evidence; [178359]

(3) which social services departments have declined to re-open cases of children taken into care on the basis of expert evidence since the Minister for Children announced the review into civil cases; [178444]

(4) which authorities have reviewed cases of children taken into care in compliance with his Department's request; and how many cases have been looked at in each case. [178445]

Margaret Hodge: In accordance with my statement to the House on 23 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 37, Local Authority Circular 2004(5) was issued, setting out the steps that Councils with social services responsibilities were to undertake in relation to children who were the subject of current proceedings or past, but still extant, court orders.

With the assistance of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS), a survey has been undertaken of those children who are the subject of current proceedings. The results of this survey were published on 17 June, with the survey being placed in the Libraries of both Houses, together with a written Ministerial statement. The survey results published on 17 June relate to "open" cases that are currently before the courts.

Drinking Water (Schools)

Ms Shipley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will provide further guidance to *(a)* local education authorities, *(b)* schools and *(c)* governors, indicating that drinking water should be made available to pupils throughout the day. [182058]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: As a Department we are aware of the importance of pupils drinking water during the school day and the benefits that it brings. The "Healthy School Lunches" guidance, published by DfES, contains the Secretary of State's expectation that drinking water should be made available to all pupils every day, free of charge.

We have already revised the non-statutory guidance in Building Bulletin 87 Guidelines for Environmental Design in Schools for the design of new buildings (www.teachernet.gov.uk/energy). Section 5 of BB87 describes what DfES considers is adequate provision of drinking water supplies.

We will also be revising The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 to make the requirements for drinking water clearer. The revision will ensure compatibility with Regulation 22 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations, 1992.

The forthcoming Healthy Living Blueprint will include guidance on both the importance of drinking water and how schools can increase their pupils' consumption.

Education Maintenance Allowances

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of young people who received education maintenance allowances in each pilot area were studying in further education colleges. [182934]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Nationally, 36 per cent. of 16–18 year olds on full-time further education courses are studying in further education colleges. In the 56 EMA pilot areas 136 sixth form colleges/colleges of Further Education were involved in EMA. A breakdown of how many students attending Further Education colleges who received EMA in the pilot areas is not available.

Head Teachers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the number of head teachers. [182371]

Mr. Miliband: Responsibility for the recruitment of headteachers rests with LEAs and governing bodies. However, effective training and development of school leaders to take on senior leadership posts is vital. That is why, in 2000, we established The National College for School Leadership (NCSL) to be the key agent for transforming the quality of leadership in our schools.

The National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) is now mandatory and there are over 8,000 aspiring headteachers currently undertaking the programme. More than 12,500 have graduated from the programme since it first started in 1997.

Learning and Skills Councils

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress he has made in his discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals for devolving responsibility for learning and skills councils to the English regions. [181550]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Chapter 4 of the White Paper "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions", set out our proposals for strengthening the links between local Learning and Skills Councils and elected regional assemblies in regions where they are established. The Skills Strategy White Paper of July 2003 emphasised the importance of LSCs working closely with Regional Development Agencies to ensure a close alignment between supply and demand for adult skills in meeting regional priorities. There are no proposals for devolving responsibility for local Learning and Skills Councils to regions. The draft of the Bill that would be needed to establish elected regional assemblies will be published soon. This will set out the powers, functions and structures of elected assemblies.

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many local learning and skills councils were informed of their 2004–05 allocations by the National Learning and Skills Council by 31 May. [182936]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC decides the funding allocations at local level. Information about the timing of these allocations is not collected by the Department. This is an operational matter and the responsibility of the LSC. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Level 1/2/3/4 Qualifications

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many adults he expects to *(a)* apply for and *(b)* achieve a level one qualification other than basic skills in the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council region in (i) 2004–05, (ii) 2005–06 and (iii) 2006–07; [182336]

(2) whether all people in the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council region who wish to study for a basic skills qualification in a further education college in academic year 2004–05 are guaranteed a place; and if he will make a statement; [182337]

(3) whether all further education colleges in the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council region have received their funding allocations for 2004–05; and how many allocations were received *(a)* before 31 May and *(b)* after 31 May; [182339]

(4) how many adults he expects to *(a)* apply for and *(b)* achieve a (i) level four, (ii) level three and (iii) level two qualification in Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council region in *(A)* 2004–05, *(B)* 2005–06 and *(C)* 2006–07; [182341]

(5) how many 14 to 16 year olds in the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council region he expects to spend time studying in a further education college in *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06, *(c)* 2006–07; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such provision in each case. [182342]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have had with the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council since 17 March to discuss funding for further education colleges. [182937]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My ministerial colleagues and I have regular meetings with the Learning and Skills Council's Chief Executive, Mark Haysom, to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the LSC, including the funding of further education.

Public Service Agreements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1429–30W, on schools (external controls), if he will list *(a)* the six public service agreements (PSAs), *(b)* the 27 components of PSAs, *(c)* the 13 further PSA related targets, measures and compliance requirements and *(d)* the 167 non-PSA related targets, measures and compliance requirements referred to in Chart 2.7 of Devolving decision making: Delivering better public services: refining targets and performance management; [171775]

(2) when he will reply to question reference 171775 from the hon. Member for Fareham. [183150]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 10 May 2004]*: Information relating to the measures identified by the authors of the report and referred to in Chart 2.7 is available via the internet website addresses given below. The measures are relevant only to certain phases of school education, and are a mixture of information requirements and subjects for judgments made by Ofsted inspectors. The majority of the measures are attributable to Ofsted and their arrangements for conducting school inspections and can be found on their website at www.ofstedgov.uk/inspectors/

The PSAs and the PSA components are on the Treasury's website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/performance/

Information about the further PSA related and the non-PSA related targets, measures and compliance requirements can be found on the Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/delivering-results/ and on the website for the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister www.bvpi.gov.uk/

CABINET OFFICE

Expatriate Retired Civil Servants

Mr. Webb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether civil servants who retire abroad to a country where pensions are frozen for expatriates continue to have their guaranteed minimum pension uprated; and if he will make a statement. [182040]

Mr. Alexander: When a pensioner covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) becomes permanently resident in a country where state pensions are frozen for expatriates, the Inland Revenue advises the PCSPS that the state pension will not attract uprating increases. The PCSPS will then uprate the Guaranteed Minimum Pension element of the PCSPS pension in line with increases under the Pensions Increase Orders.

Regulatory Offices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what measures he has taken to establish a comprehensive list of independent regulators following the October 2003 Better Regulation Task Force report. [181026]

Mr. Alexander: As indicated in our response to the Better Regulation Task Force Report, which I announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on Monday 9 February 2004, *Official Report*, column. 61WS, the Government is undertaking a review of the variety and complexity of public bodies sponsored by central government departments. As part of the review, we will consider identifying those which can be classified as independent regulators.

The review is currently in progress. We expect to complete the review and make the results available by the end of the year.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 July 2004

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa

Mr. Tony Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage developing countries to use revenues from exports of energy supplies to support programmes combating poverty in Africa. [183203]

Hilary Benn: DFID is promoting the transparency of payments and revenues from extractive industries in those countries where such industries contribute the major portion of government revenues. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, launched by the Prime Minister in 2002, is gaining support from several African countries including Nigeria, with discussions taking place in several others. What governments do with the revenues from the export of energy (in particular oil) is another issue. DFID is working with developing countries to assist them develop and implement their poverty reduction strategies, including the relative importance of forestry and other natural assets.

China

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if Her Majesty's Government will agree to earmark part of their financial contributions to the UN High Commission for Refugees specifically for North Korean refugees in China. [182557]

Hilary Benn: DFID normally funds the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) through un-earmarked funding—ie UNHRC decide how to use resources based on their needs assessment process. DFID contributes £17 million core un-earmarked funding per year under a bilateral Institutional Strategy Agreement.

Un-earmarked funding allows UNHCR to prioritise their work based on humanitarian principles. Earmarking funds can contribute to inequitable and sometimes disproportionate resource allocation between crises.

This approach is part of wider international initiative on 'Good Humanitarian Donorship', which aims to improve humanitarian response through greater effectiveness, accountability and coordination between the key humanitarian organisations, including UNHCR to identify and agree prioritisation of need and hence equitable resource allocation. The UK is a strong supporter of good humanitarian donorship and has made commitments to take this forward.

DFID understands that the UNHCR do not have a funding problem in China hence there is no apparent need to vary DFID's normal approach.

Civil Service Relocation

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many civil servants and what percentage of the total civil service workforce in his Department will be relocated over the next five years *(a)* outside the M25, *(b)* to the West Midlands and *(c)* to Staffordshire. [180174]

Fiona Mactaggart: I have been asked to reply.

The Lyons report gives details of Department's relocation plans, which are being taken forward and refined as part of the Spending Review. The Government will announce proposals for implementing and monitoring dispersal plans in the review. The Home Office is determining its own dispersal strategy in the light of the Lyons report and its own particular business needs and priorities.

Zambia

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department has received from non-governmental organisations about *(a)* trade liberalisation, *(b)* privatisation and *(c)* investment deregulation in Zambia; and if he will make a statement. [182329]

Hilary Benn: The reforms of the 1990s which dismantled pervasive government controls of Zambia's economy to establish a market based system have generated a vigorous and on-going debate in Zambia. The World Development Movement recently produced a report—"Zambia: Condemned to Debt"—adopting a largely critical view of these reforms. The evidence suggests a more positive view is justified.

Zambia's long run of economic decline is showing signs of reversal. Economic growth, which had been near zero from the mid 1970s to mid 1990s, has averaged 3.4 per cent. per annum since 1995. Zambia has experienced its longest period of sustained growth for three decades with the fifth successive year of positive growth in 2003.

The pace of liberalisation and deregulation in the early 1990s was rapid. The impact of reform has varied across sectors. People working in urban manufacturing suffered from the removal of protection before alternative employment opportunities were available. The improved growth since 1995 has been insufficient to boost overall employment, although there have been new jobs in service sectors. A new and significant commercial agriculture sector has also emerged. This has provided most of the impressive growth in non-copper exports, which have expanded from US$100 million in the early 1990s to US$405 million in 2003. It has also improved livelihoods. Since the privatisation of the cotton sector the number of small farmers in out-grower schemes has risen from 50,000 to 250,000. However, people who lack commercial opportunities and those hardest hit by food insecurity and HIV/AIDS remain very vulnerable.

The impact of privatisation has also been mixed. The reforms led to job losses during the 1990s, although this often reflected the struggling position of state enterprises before privatisation. The economic performance of these enterprises has improved, with

239 of 254 entities privatised still operating, but growth has been insufficient to provide significant new employment. Privatisation has also ended a major drain on government resources. For example Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines ran losses of US$15–20 million per month in the two years prior to privatisation. This was equivalent to 69 per cent. of the entire health and education budgets during those years. Privatisation in this case has freed up significant resources for poverty reduction.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) believe that stronger diversification and private sector development, rather than continued dependence on copper and state industries, must be the basis for Zambia's long run growth and poverty reduction. The Department for International Development continues to provide significant support to Zambia as the Government seek to improve macroeconomic stability and the business environment in its efforts to achieve the 6–8 per cent. growth required to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's officials have had with representatives of non-governmental organisations concerning the situation in Zambia. [182330]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development (DFID) maintains a regular dialogue with non-governmental organisations in Zambia.

DFID works closely with Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), whose members include major non-governmental organisations such as the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and Oxfam. CSPR plays a significant role in contributing to the Government of the Republic of Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and in arguing for debt cancellation. The effectiveness of development assistance in the implementation of the PRS, and the need to look beyond the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Completion Point are regular themes of discussions with CSPR representatives. DFID agrees with CSPR that a new approach to aid delivery combined with sound budget and domestic debt management is required to ensure government is effective in delivering services for long term poverty reduction.

DFID has drawn on its dialogue with CSPR members and other non-governmental organisations to help identify key areas of vulnerability for the poor. This helped inform DFID's new Country Assistance Plan in highlighting food insecurity and HIV/AIDS as the most critical risks facing poor people in Zambia. DFID has recently agreed a Programme Partnership Agreement with CARE Zambia to enable the poorest to better manage social risk associated with food security, destitution and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has *(a)* drawn up and *(b)* implemented to help reduce the number of people affected by HIV/AIDS in Zambia. [182331]

Hilary Benn: Zambia has endured high HIV infection rates for many years. Currently the HIV prevalence rate among adults is 16 per cent. In June 2003, DFID Zambia began implementing a £20 million five-year programme to tackle HIV/AIDS. Its main elements are:

strengthening the National Aids Council (NAC);

providing public sector services such as drugs for treating sexually transmitted infections, education materials for use in schools, condoms, and supporting the prevention of mother to child transmission;

funding civil society organisations that work on behaviour change, care and support of those infected and affected, and protecting human rights, particularly of women and girls; and

supporting HIV/AIDS private sector workplace interventions.

In addition, DFID's £20 million Zambia Health Programme (2001–05) is strengthening health systems in Zambia. A new £10 million Programme Partnership Agreement with CARE International, Zambia, includes £2 million toward supporting positive living for those infected with HIV/AIDS.

All the programmes that DFID supports in the social, economic and services sectors in Zambia have an HIV/AIDS component. DFID is planning to expand our support in these areas.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian implications of the level of external debt in Zambia. [182332]

Hilary Benn: Zambia's external debt poses severe problems both in terms of the stock of debt and the particularly high level of debt service in the 2001–05 period. Zambia's scheduled external debt service averages US$570 million per year during 2001–05. This is equivalent to approximately 80 per cent. of total government domestic revenues. However, under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, Zambia's actual external debt service has averaged US$122 million per year in the three years since Decision Point in December 2000. This has been essential in enabling the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) to maintain and improve vital public services.

During this period GRZ's expenditure on health has averaged US$161 million per year, an increase of 63 per cent. on the three previous years. Expenditure on education has averaged US$182 million per year, an increase of 53 per cent. on the three previous years.

The Department for International Development (DFID) supports GRZ in its objective of reaching HIPC Completion Point at the earliest opportunity. The recent approval of a new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility with the International Monetary Fund is a major milestone towards this. DFID is also engaging in dialogue with GRZ and other donors to ensure that development assistance is effectively delivered in support of GRZ's Poverty Reduction Strategy after Completion Point.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the impact of *(a)* International Monetary Fund and *(b)* World Bank policies in Zambia. [182333]

Hilary Benn: The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) embarked on a comprehensive programme of economic reforms during the 1990s, with the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and other development agencies, including the Department for International Development (DFID).

There is evidence that the reforms have started to reverse Zambia's long run of economic decline. Economic growth, which had been near zero from the mid 1970s to mid 1990s, has averaged 3.4 per cent. per annum since 1995. 2003 marked the fifth successive year of positive growth for Zambia under an IMF macro-economic programme.

While this improved economic performance is welcome. Other aspects of reform have had mixed results. Closure of urban manufacturing and state owned enterprises before alternative employment opportunities were available, affected people working in those sectors. The emergence of commercial agriculture and stemming the drain on the budget from nationalised industry losses, have not fully offset the negative impact on urban poverty or benefited remote rural areas.

The Zambian Government's public sector reform programme, largely implemented with World Bank assistance, has made very slow progress since its launch in 1993. The current reform agenda, with a focus on public financial management and financial sector reforms is making better progress. It has been developed with a clear sense of leadership by GRZ and support from a wider group of development agencies.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Best Value

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if, following the publication by his Department of the Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys 2003–4: General Survey Initial Topline Report, he will place in the Library the unaudited data for each of the 377 authorities for the 14 best value performance indicators. [183057]

Mr. Raynsford: It is not our usual practice to publish unaudited data for Best Value User Satisfaction Surveys and consequently this information is not currently available in a format which is suitable for placing in the Library. We are currently exploring the possibility of publishing this data prior to the publication of the audited data. However, the unaudited data can be found in the Best Value Performance Plan which each local authority is required to publish each year, in this case by 30 June 2004.

The audited data for this survey, which will consist of a more in-depth analysis than the unaudited data, will be published in autumn of this year and a copy of this will be made available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Funding

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the *(a)* programmes, *(b)* projects, *(c)* initiatives and *(d)* other components which make up his Department's planned (i) revenue and (ii) capital budget for (A) housing and homelessness, (B) neighbourhood renewal and (C) sustainable communities for 2004–05; and what (1) expenditure and (2) staffing numbers are allocated to each. [181821]

Keith Hill: The table below shows the latest 2004–05 budget allocations for the housing and homelessness, neighbourhood renewal and sustainable communities programmes.

£ million

Programme	*Resource Budget 2004–05*	*Capital Budget 2004–05*
(A) Housing and Homelessness		
Housing Corporation Board remuneration and pensions	0.230	0
The National Approved Letting Scheme	0.084	0
Local Authority Social Housing Grant Transitional compensation	17.500	0
Disabled Facilities Grant	2.200	98.800
Housing Defects Grant	0.130	0.070
Home Improvement Agencies	0.423	0
Residential Property Tribunal Service	10.220	0
Housing Mobility Grants	6.742	0
Housing Management grants (incl. Tenant Participation)	5.100	0
Gypsy site grant	0.000	8.000
Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service	0.580	0
Valuation Office Agency Right to buy charge	1.800	0
Efficiency improvements in local government	0.466	0
Homelessness	60.000	0
Home Buying and Selling	1.500	0
Local Authority funding of pilot letting systems	1.000	0
Best Intervention in Housing	1.000	0
Private Landlords in Low Demand Areas	1.000	0
Payments to the Audit Commission for RSL Inspections	1.800	0
LA Regional Housing	0	801.000
Arms Length Management Organisations	0	817.114
Capital Pooled Housing Receipts	0	30.000
Overhanging debt repayment on disposal of LA housing stock	0	616.000
Housing Action Trusts	43.800	0

£ million

Programme	Resource Budget 2004–05	Capital Budget 2004–05
Housing Corporation	1,766.712	0.005
Supporting People	1,864.739	0
Housing Revenue Account Subsidy	12.647	0
Total	3,774.379	2,310.989
(B) Neighbourhood Renewal		
New Deal for Communities	175.260	96.740
New Ventures Fund	98.750	0.000
Total	274.010	96.740
(C) Sustainable Communities		
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	6.000	0
Housing Market Renewal Fund	150.000	0
European Regional Development Fund	89.249	128.102
Design Awards	0.050	0
Research	9.769	0
Urban Design Skills	6.500	0
Liveablity Fund	40.500	0
Thames Gateway	23.000	175.000
Other Growth Areas	9.500	49.000
Regional Development Agencies—ODPM Support	1,104.983	130.000
London Development Agency—ODPM support	106.880	170.000
Mersey Basin	0.520	0
Groundwork	23.000	0
Coalfields Regeneration Trust	17.650	0
Special Grants Programme	2.250	0
Coalfields Enterprise Fund	0	5.000
Sustainable Communities Communications	0.440	0
Commission for the New Towns	12.515	1.000
EP: Urban Regeneration Agency	133.782	18.500
Lee Valley Regional Park	0	0.458
Total	1,736.588	675.060

The latest 2004–05 administration budgets and staffing complements allocated to the relevant Units in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are:

	Budgets[1] *£ million*	*Staff (full time equivalent)*
Housing and homelessness	8.671	190
Neighbourhood Renewal	7.362	151.5
Sustainable communities	14.192	276

[1] These figures exclude the relevant Unit's share of centrally managed budgets such as IT and accommodation costs.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many full-time equivalent staff there have been in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department in each year since 1997. [182900]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. Staffing information is published annually in the "Civil Service Statistics". Copies of the publication for the years in the question are available in the Library of the House and on the Cabinet Office Civil Service Statistics website at www.civil-service.gov.uk/statistics.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Flight: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent on first class travel for departmental and executive agency employees in each year since 2001. [175752]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. Based on information from contracted suppliers expenditure on first class rail travel by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was:

	£ thousand
2002–03	396
2003–04	213

Information is not held centrally on the first class element of other forms of travel, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Information on first class travel by executive agency employees could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Government Estate (Sustainable Development)

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which parts of his Department's estate will not be covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [182889]

Phil Hope: The following parts of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's estate will not be covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate:

Supporting People Programme team in Glossop—six officials;

Counselling Support Service in Bootle—one official;

Fire Statistics in BRE Watford—18 officials.

These small teams are housed remotely from other parts of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and do not have sufficient resources available to gather the reliable information required by the Framework. The teams do, where possible, partake in greening initiatives of their host department, landlord or local authority.

Since November 2002, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has monitored Departments' performance against the Framework targets in the annual Sustainable Development in Government reports http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/reports/index.htm. The Second Annual report, published in November 2003, contains data based on the financial year April 2002 to March 2003. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps have been taken by his Department to review arrangements for public reporting of sustainable development impacts under the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [182890]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has a policy commitment to publish its sustainable development impacts, activity and performance. The report for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's first full year is presently with specialist consultants for independent verification and will be published shortly. The data for 2003–04 is presently being collated and a report is expected to be published in October 2004.

Since November 2002, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has monitored Departments' performance against the Framework targets in the annual Sustainable Development in Government reports http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/reports/index.htm. The Second Annual report, published in November 2003, contains data based on the financial year April 2002 to March 2003. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements his Department has to report publicly on its key sustainable development impacts under the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [182891]

Phil Hope: All sustainable development impacts under the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate (SDiG) of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's estate will be publicly reported in its Greening Operations Annual Report which will be placed both on the ODPM and the SDiG websites.

A report for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's estates first full year of operation is presently with specialist consultants for independent verification and will be published shortly. The data for 2003–04 is being collated and it is expected that a report will be published in October 2004.

Since November 2002, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has monitored Departments' performance against the Framework targets in the annual Sustainable Development in Government reports(http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/reports/index.htm). The Second Annual report, published in November 2003, contains data based on the financial year April 2002 to March 2003. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Green Belt

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements he has in place to protect the greenbelt from developers purchasing agricultural land and then selling it in smaller amounts without planning permission. [183475]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued a statement on 19 April 2004, *Official Report*, columns 3–4 WS setting out the measures we are taking, and some we have considered, for dealing with the sale of subdivided agricultural land. Officials of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister met representatives of local planning authorities last October and again in June to hear their views. We are considering carefully the suggestions made and what further action may be necessary.

Housing Standards

Ms Keeble: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what timescale he has set for the review of overcrowding standards. [182839]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister hopes to launch a consultation in October and announce conclusions from the review as early as possible in the new year. Any proposals for regulations under the provision inserted in the Housing Bill at Commons Report Stage will of course be subject to Royal Assent.

Use Classes Order

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he proposes to implement the changes in the Use Classes Order regarding bars, restaurants and the late night economy. [183654]

Keith Hill: The proposed changes to the Use Classes Order give rise to a need to amend the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995. Statutory Instruments amending the Use Classes Order and the General Permitted Development Order are currently being prepared. The changes to both Orders will come into force at the same time. Supporting guidance in the form of a circular instruction will be published at the same time. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister expects this to happen before the end of the summer.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received regarding levels of council tax in Herefordshire. [183148]

Mr. Raynsford: Over the last few months the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has received a large volume of correspondence about council tax, some covering specific local authorities and others concerning the council tax system in general. Any further analysis of this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Travel

David Davis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department and its predecessors spent on ministerial travel by *(a)* car, *(b)* train, *(c)* aeroplane and *(d)* helicopter, in each of the last 10 years. [175662]

Phil Hope: My hon. Friend the Member for Paisley South has asked Nick Matheson, Chief Executive of the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) to write to the hon. Member with details of the cost of Ministerial vehicles provided to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Information on expenditure on ministerial travel by non-GCDA car, train, aeroplane and helicopter is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken fully in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mobile Phone Operators

Mr. Spring: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) if he will make it a statutory requirement for mobile telephone network operators to adhere to the guidance offered in the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development; [182546]

(2) if he will make a statement on the Government's efforts to encourage mobile phone network operators to implement the guidance offered in the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development. [182547]

Keith Hill: The Government has no current plans to make it a statutory requirement for mobile telephone network operators to adhere to the guidance offered in the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development

The mobile network operators and local planning authorities are well aware of the importance the Government attaches to the observance of the best practice guidance set out in the Code. Ministers in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister meet regularly with the Mobile Operators Association to discuss a range of issues including the operators' progress in meeting their commitments to improved local consultation. We have asked the mobile network operators that in commissioning the second independent review of their Ten Commitments they extend the scope of that review to include their observance of the Code. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is commissioning a study to assess the impact that the Code has had more widely since its introduction and how it is perceived by local authorities and the public.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182945]

Phil Hope: Since the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002, *(a)* three executive non-departmental public bodies and one advisory non-departmental public body have been established, and *(b)* one executive non-departmental public body and one advisory non-departmental public body have been wound up.

PFI (Environmental Sustainability)

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to ensure that private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible create the minimum of environmental damage. [182895]

Phil Hope: Private Finance Initiative (PFI) should only be used where it represents the best possible procurement route based on a rigorous assessment of value for money—risks involved in the procurement are placed with the best party able to manage them, therefore, ensuring value for money.

By integrating the design, build and operational aspects into a single financial package, PFI helps to encourage greater efficiency, including energy efficiency, over the whole life of the contract.

The long term and integrated nature of PFI contracts incentivises the contractors to consider the synergies between the design of an asset and its ultimate operating costs. This can result in the delivery of public services in a more environmentally sensitive way and without an additional price tag.

In addition, the viability of a PFI project is assessed against a number of criteria, including sustainable development where projects must 'demonstrate an integrated approach to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area, now and for future generations'. This is a key component in deciding whether or not a PFI scheme should be pursued.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published detailed guidance "Green Public Private Partnerships" in 2002 in conjunction with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and other Government Departments for anyone developing or managing a Public Private Partnerships/Private Finance Initiative (PPP/PFI) scheme. This explained the need to take seriously environmental issues and how best to reflect environmental considerations in the objectives of PPP/PFI schemes, and provided practical help and advice.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the sustainability and environmental impacts of private finance initiative projects and *(b)* the capacity of the private finance initiative process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects. [182896]

Phil Hope: The long term and integrated nature of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts incentivises the contractors to consider the synergies between the design of an asset and its ultimate operating costs. This can result in the delivery of public services in a more environmentally sensitive way and without an additional price tag.

PFI projects have demonstrated that investing to deliver environmental improvements can secure not only best value for money through lower running costs but also health and social benefits such as better

working conditions. The adoption of green outputs can also help to accelerate the development and take-up of green technologies.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to make private finance initiative contracts more accountable and transparent in terms of environmental sustainability. [182897]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister requests that Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects share design specifications of projects with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) who work with public bodies to improve the design of public buildings, which includes looking at the environmental impact of building design.

Planning Guidance (Satellite Dishes)

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will issue new planning guidance on regulations for the number of satellite dishes applying to residential homes to give discretion to local planning authorities; and if he will make a statement. [182723]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consulted last year on changes to the planning regulations for satellite dishes and other antennas. We expect to make an announcement on the way forward in due course, after which we will bring forward revised regulations and updated guidance.

The regulations provide for the specific number, size and location of satellite dish antennas which can be erected without the need for planning permission. However, it is open to those who wish to have additional dishes to make a planning application in the usual way.

Regional Assembly and Local Government Referendums Order

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission concerning the definition of convincing evidence in paragraph 7.14 of the explanatory memorandum to the Regional Assembly and Local Government Referendums Order 2004; and if he will make a statement. [181793]

Mr. Raynsford: Neither Ministers nor officials in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have had any such discussions.

Rent Arrears

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will amend the Housing Act 1988 to give county courts discretion not to make an order for possession under mandatory Ground 8, Schedule 2, if the rent arrears are a consequence of a delay or failure in payment of housing benefit. [182715]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no plans to amend Ground 8 of Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1988. The Department of Work and Pensions has introduced a range of housing benefit reforms that are improving the performance of local authorities in administering housing benefit. The average time taken to process housing benefit claims in 2003–04 was 49 days compared to 55 days in 2002–03.

Skew Bridge Roadworks

Mr. Key: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discretion Salisbury District Council has to reduce *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates in recognition of disruption to domestic and business life caused by roadworks at Skew Bridge on the A36 (T) at Salisbury. [180778]

Mr. Raynsford: Salisbury district council has power to offer locally defined council tax discounts under section 13 A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (which was inserted by section 76 of the Local Government Act 2003) and hardship relief from non domestic rates under section 49(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

West Yorkshire Fire Authority

Colin Burgon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding was made available for the West Yorkshire Fire Authority *(a)* in 2004–05 and *(b)* in each of the last nine years. [183032]

Mr. Raynsford: West Yorkshire Fire Authority reported receiving the following grants in 2004–05 and in each of the last nine years as follows:

£000

	Amount of grant
1995–96	43,234
1996–97	44,809
1997–98	47,748
1998–99	49,121
1999–2000	50,439
2000–01	50,883
2001–02	53,250
2002–03	54,631
2003–04	56,362
2004–05	59,545

Colin Burgon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many firefighters were employed by the West Yorkshire Fire Authority *(a)* in 2004–05 and *(b)* in each of the last nine years. [183033]

Mr. Raynsford: The most recent information is at 31 March 2004.

The information requested is set out below:

Number of firefighters in West Yorkshire

Year[1]	*Wholetime*	*Retained*	*Total*
1995	1,787	165	1,952
1996	1,756	181	1,937
1997	1,739	180	1,919
1998	1,727	179	1,906
1999	1,723	177	1,900
2000	1,680	173	1,853
2001	1,683	169	1,852
2002	1,660	163	1,823
2003	1,678	159	1,837
2004	1,658	165	1,823

[1] Data refer to workforce as at 31 March except for 1995, where data refer to 1 January.

PRIME MINISTER

Commission for Africa

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment the Commission for Africa has made of the potential for the use of revenue from energy resources for combating poverty in Africa. [183202]

The Prime Minister: The Commission for Africa will examine ways of combating poverty including improving the efficient, transparent and fair management and use of revenues from natural resources. It will report next year.

European Constitution

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish, before the Summer Adjournment, the draft of any Bill necessary to come into force prior to ratification of any treaty establishing a constitution of the European Union; and if he will indicate prior to that date what opportunities each House will have to consider the merits of each article or part of that treaty before its ratification. [183240]

The Prime Minister: The Bill to give effect to the treaty cannot be published until after the treaty has been finalised and signed. Signature is currently planned for the autumn.

Parliament has had many opportunities to consider the text of the treaty during the negotiations, for example through Select Committees, Standing Committees and debates on the floor of the House. It will have further opportunities when considering the Bill.

Honours System

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects Sir Hayden Phillip's review of the honours system to report to him. [183517]

The Prime Minister: Sir Hayden Phillips' review of the honours system will be published shortly.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister if he will give an undertaking that efforts will be made to bring to justice those responsible for the murders of British service personnel and civilians in Iraq. [183524]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Written Ministerial Statement on 8 July 2004, (*Official Report*, columns 48–49WS, by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Hoon).

Mr. Tom Kelly

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral answer of 28 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 885, on Mr. Tom Kelly, on what date the family of the late Dr. David Kelly accepted the apology of his official spokesman for making derogatory remarks after Dr. Kelly's death. [183152]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add on this issue.

Racism

David Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister what safeguards are in place to ensure that Ministers do not inadvertently attend meetings or send messages to meetings where racist or anti-semitic individuals are platform speakers. [183142]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Code provides guidance to Ministers on how they should undertake their official duties. As the Code makes clear, it is for individual Ministers to account for their decisions and actions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she will publish the study on combined heat and power potential due for release in January 2004. [182012]

Mr. Morley: We expect to be in a position to publish this study shortly.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government will publish details of the Combined Heat and Power Quality Improvement Programme mentioned in the CHP Strategy. [181953]

Mr. Morley: As stated in "The Government's Strategy for CHP to 2010", which we published on 26 April of this year, a Quality Improvement programme will be developed to make use of the performance assessments of CHP schemes carried out under the CHP Quality Assurance programme. In common with the other measures set out in the strategy that have not yet been implemented, this programme is currently in development.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the Government propose to close the shortfall in capacity between the 8.1 GWe central projection in the Combined Heat and Power Strategy and the 10 GWe target. [181965]

Mr. Morley: The figure of 8.1 GWe is the central projection within a range of 7.7–9.4 GWe, which mainly allows for uncertainties over gas and electricity price movements. This does not take account of either the introduction of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme or the CHP measures in the Energy White Paper, which are at too early a stage of development to quantify fully. The support measures set out in "The Government's Strategy for CHP to 2010", which we published on 26 April of this year, are expected to contribute around 1.9 GWe to achievement of the 10 GWe target and we are confident that by working in close partnership with industry we can help CHP realize its full potential in the low carbon economy of the future.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she estimates the Government will achieve the 2000 combined heat and power target of 5 GWe. [181966]

Mr. Morley: I anticipate that the figure of 5 GWe of installed Good Quality CHP capacity will be achieved this year.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures suggested by respondents to the 2002 Draft Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Strategy were included in the Government's final CHP Strategy; [181967]

(2) what new measures to promote combined heat and power (CHP) have been announced by the Government in the CHP Strategy. [181968]

Mr. Morley: The responses to the May 2002 CHP Strategy consultation fed into the Energy White Paper and the final CHP Strategy. The new measures announced since the Strategy consultation include:

a 15 per cent. target for Government Departments to use CHP generated electricity;

reviewing the power station consent guidance to ensure the opportunities for CHP are fully considered; and

field trials to evaluate the benefits of micro-CHP.

The full range of measures to support CHP are set out in the final strategy.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how the Government are encouraging other parts of the public sector to adopt the combined heat and power (CHP) targets similar to its announcement of a 15 per cent. target for Government Departments; [181969]

(2) if she will list the *(a)* Departments and *(b)* buildings which are included within the Government's target of 15 per cent. combined heat and power use within the Government estate. [181970]

Mr. Morley: The Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government estate covers central Government Departments and their Executive Agencies (see following table). It does not cover non-departmental public bodies and other associated bodies, the devolved Administrations, or local authorities. Departments are responsible for the promotion of sustainable development to their associate bodies and many public bodies are already taking a lead on sustainable development issues. It is anticipated that Departments will promote the framework to their non-departmental public bodies and other associate bodies and further encourage development of strategies for target setting, performance improvement and reporting along the lines set out in the framework. For further information, please see http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/index.htm.

Government Departments and their agencies[1]

Name of Department	*Executive agency*
1. Ministry of Defence	1. Army Base Repair Organisation
	2. Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency
	3. Army Personnel Centre
	4. Army Training and Recruiting Agency
	5. British Forces Post Office
	6. Defence Analytical Services Agency
	7. Defence Aviation Repair Agency
	8. Defence Bills Agency
	9. Defence Dental Agency
	10. Defence Estates
	11. Defence Evaluation and Research Agency
	12. Defence Geographic and Imagery Intelligence Agency
	13. Defence Housing Executive
	14. Defence Intelligence and Security Centre
	15. Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO)
	16. Defence Medical Education and Training Agency
	17. Defence Medical Training Organisation
	18. Defence Procurement Agency
	19. Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
	20. Defence Vetting Agency
	21. Disposal Services Agency
	22. Duke of York's Royal Military School
	23. Met Office
	24. Ministry of Defence Police
	25. Naval Manning Agency
	26. Naval Recruiting and Training Agency
	27. Pay and Personnel Agency
	28. Queen Victoria School
	29. RAF Training Group Defence Agency
	30. RAF Personnel Management Agency
	31. Service Children's Education
	32. United Kingdom National Codification Bureau
	33. United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
	34. Veterans Agency
2. The Cabinet Office	Government Car and Despatch Agency
3. Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Wilton Park
4. Department of Health	1. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
	2. NHS Estates
	3. NHS Pensions Agency
	4. Purchasing and Supply Agency

Government Departments and their agencies[1]

Name of Department		*Executive agency*
5.	Office of Deputy Prime Minister	1. Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (QEII) 2. Fire Service College 3. Planning Inspectorate 4. Rent Officer Service 5. Ordnance Survey
6.	Department for Transport	1. Driving Standards Agency (DSA) 2. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) 3. Highways Agency (HA) 4. Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) 5. Vehicle Certification Agency (VGA) 6. Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
7.	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1. Central Science Laboratory 2. Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science 3. Pesticides Safety Directorate 4. Rural Payments Agency 5. Veterinary Laboratories Agency 6. Veterinary Medicines Directorate
8.	Department for Education and Skills	
9.	Department for Work and Pensions	1. Appeals Service Agency 2. Child Support Agency 3. Jobcentre Plus
10.	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Royal Parks
11.	Department for International Development	
12.	Department of Trade and Industry	1. Companies House 2. Employment Tribunals Service 3. Insolvency Service 4. National Weights and Measures Laboratory 5. Patent Office 6. Radiocommunications Agency 7. Small Business Service
13.	Home Office	1. Forensic Science Service 2. HM Prison Service 3. Passports and Records Agency
14.	HM Treasury	1. National Savings and Investments 2. UK Debt Management Office
15.	Board of the Inland Revenue	The Valuation Office Agency
16.	HM Customs and Excise	
17.	Export Credits Guarantee Department	
18.	Department for Constitutional Affairs	1. Court Service 2. Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Forces 3. The Public Guardianship Office
19.	Law Officers	
20.	Treasury Solicitor's Department	
21.	Serious Fraud Office	
22.	Crown Prosecution Service	
23.	Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	
24.	Office for National Statistics	

[1] Taken from the Civil Service Yearbook (online version) http://www.civil-service.co.uk/content/deDt/ministerslist.asp.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how the Government will emphasise the benefits of combined heat and power (CHP) and community heating in planning and sustainable guidance, as mentioned in the CHP Strategy; [181971]

(2) what work has been undertaken to invite the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust to review current and future programmes to ensure they reinforce delivery of the combined heat and power target. [182010]

Mr. Morley: Emphasising the benefits of CHP and community heating in planning and sustainable guidance plus the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust reviewing current and future programmes to ensure they reinforce delivery of the CHP target were among the support measures set out in "The Governments Strategy for CHP to 2010", which we published on 26 April of this year. The delivery of both measures is an ongoing process and we are working closely with other parts of government and both trusts to continue to deliver them.

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will publish the calculations relating to the estimate of 100–400MWe of combined heat and power capacity brought online as a result of the introduction of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; [182039]

(2) what work has been undertaken on a framework for pilot projects within the UK Emissions Trading Scheme for which combined heat and power projects may be eligible. [182011]

Mr. Morley: The range of 100–400MWe was estimated on the basis of sensitivities to financial incentives implied by the Cambridge Econometrics 2003 remodelling of Good Quality CHP capacity. That model was the source of the central projection of

8.1GWe by 2010 contained in "The Government's Strategy for CHP to 2010", which we published on 26 April of this year. The remodelling is available on the DTI website at www.dti.gov.uk/energy/environment/energyefficiency/chpreport.pdf.

The Energy White Paper included a support measure for CHP via a pilot project entry route into the UK Emissions Trading Scheme. This was overtaken by European Commission's proposal to link projects into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which will now take precedence over the UK scheme.

Accountancy Advice

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts have been let by her Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising her Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182256]

Alun Michael: From analysis of information held centrally, no contracts have been let and fees paid by the Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte and Touche, KPMG and Ernst and Young for advice on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts.

Aquaculture

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Norwegian companies and operators are engaged in aquaculture in the United Kingdom; and how many people, in full-time equivalents, are employed by those companies. [176626]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on the nationality of companies or individuals involved in aquaculture and their number is not available and we have no means of obtaining it. However, we estimate that Norwegian owned interests have a considerable share of salmon production.

Bovine TB

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bovine TB reactor animals slaughtered in the last five years have subsequently been confirmed to have contracted the disease. [180364]

Mr. Bradshaw: Bovine tuberculosis is confirmed either by finding visible lesions during slaughterhouse examination, or by the subsequent successful laboratory culture of samples for *Mycobacterium bovis* (the causative organism for bovine tuberculosis). Failure to confirm the disease does not mean that TB was not present, or that the animal had not been in contact with *M. bovis*. It is important to remember that the intention is to confirm disease in a herd, not each individual animal, so that the testing regime for the herd can be tailored accordingly. Once disease has been confirmed in a herd, it is not necessary to refer samples for laboratory culture in every case.

The following table presents the number of bovine TB reactor animals slaughtered and the number of those confirmed at post-mortem (either at slaughterhouse examination or laboratory culture) to have TB, in each of the last five years.

Table: TB reactors slaughtered and confirmed

	Reactor animals slaughtered[1]	*Slaughtered reactors confirmed at post-mortem to have TB*[2]
1999	5,908	2,835
2000	7,032	3,636
2001	5,347	2,332
2002[3]	19,901	6,963
2003[3]	20,114	6,278

[1] Data taken from National Statistics, published on 23 June 2004.
[2] Data downloaded from the State Veterinary Service database on 24 June 2004.
[3] Provisional data. Subject to change as more data becomes available.
Note:
In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. Since testing resumed in 2002, resources have been concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds being tested post-FMD is greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, the number of TB reactors identified and slaughtered since 2002 is not comparable to those identified and slaughtered in previous years.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the tuberculin skin test for bovine TB is a validated test; and whether the test can distinguish *(a)* infected animals, *(b)* immune animals and *(c)* animals that have a hypersensitivity to the test. [180366]

Mr. Bradshaw: The tuberculin skin test is the official diagnostic test for bovine TB sanctioned by both the European Union and the OIE (the world organisation for animal health). This test, like most "in vivo" diagnostic tests for infectious diseases, detects an immune response by the host against the infectious agent (*Mycobacterium bovis*) rather than the infectious agent itself.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the statutory basis for her Department's current policies for the control of bovine TB. [180367]

Mr. Bradshaw: The domestic legislation which provides for the notification of disease, compulsory testing, slaughter, valuation and compensation, and restriction of the movement of affected herds is set out in the Tuberculosis Orders (listed as follows), which are made under the Animal Health Act 1981.

The Tuberculosis (England and Wales) Order 1984 SI number 1943 as amended.

The Brucellosis and Tuberculosis (England and Wales) Compensation Order 1978 SI number 1483 as amended.

The Tuberculosis (Deer) Order 1989 as amended.

The Tuberculosis (Deer) Notice of Intended Slaughter and Compensation Order 1989.

The requirements for routine testing of cattle for TB are set out in EC Council Directive 64/432/EEC. This Directive deals with animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine.

This has been amended and updated, most recently by Commission Regulation EC/1226/02. Annex A sets out the criteria for maintaining Officially Tuberculosis-Free status, and Annex B lays down the procedures for carrying out the testing regime.

Also relevant is The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what symptoms of bovine TB in an individual animal oblige the owner of that animal to report the possible presence of a notifiable disease. [180368]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Tuberculosis (England and Wales) Order 1984 (as amended) defines an "affected animal" as "a cow which is affected by tuberculosis of the udder or is giving tuberculous milk, or a bovine animal which is affected with tuberculous emaciation, or is excreting or discharging tuberculous material, or is affected with a chronic cough and shows clinical signs of tuberculosis, and includes a reactor". It then states that a "suspected animal" shall be construed accordingly.

In practice, clinical signs are not very specific, and clinical TB is not common nowadays because of the testing programme. This means that, in most cases, suspected cases in non-reactor cattle are notified by veterinary surgeons, usually after being summoned to a "poorly" animal by the owner.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on her Department's current policy for the control of bovine TB; and whether that policy is intended to *(a)* contain, *(b)* control and *(c)* eradicate the disease. [180375]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current strategy for controlling bovine TB in Great Britain consists of five points, based upon the recommendations of the Krebs Report (1997):

1. Protecting Public Health
2. Developing an effective vaccine
3. Research into how the disease is spread
4. Cattle Testing and Controls
5. The Randomised Badger Culling Trial

This policy is successful in that the risk to human health remains low. However, the long term trend has been an increase in the incidence and the geographical spread of TB in cattle. The costs to industry and the taxpayer are also increasing. We need to apply to bovine TB the principles agreed in the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy—establishing targets against which we can measure our performance and formal agreements for working in partnership with the farming industry.

Evidence from other countries shows that, in the apparent absence of a significant wildlife reservoir, cattle controls along the lines of those used in Great Britain can be effective at controlling and eventually eradicating the disease according to the criteria defined in Council Directive 64/432/EEC.

Defra completed a consultation on 4 June on both short-term measures to control the geographical spread of the disease, and a revised long-term TB Strategy for England (parallel consultations took place in Wales and Scotland). We are currently analysing the responses.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the hon. Member for West Worcestershire will receive a response to his letter to the Parliamentary Secretary for Food, Farming and Sustainable Energy of 5 May. [182931]

Alun Michael: My hon. Friend the Minister for Nature Conservation and Fisheries replied on 8 July.

Donkeys

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many donkeys were imported into the UK in the last 12 months; and for what purposes. [181687]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to provide figures for the number of donkeys that entered the UK in the last 12 months. Imports of all horses, ponies, zebras, asses, mules and donkeys are recorded simply as Equidae, in accordance with the requirements of European Community law.

During the last 12 months a total of 9,795 equidae entered the UK:

7,575 from the EU

2,220 from third countries

These equidae were imported for a variety of purposes including:

Breeding and production

Import of registered equidae

Re-entry of registered horses

Temporary admission of registered

Import of non-registered equidae.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what checks and controls are in place to control the importation of donkeys. [181688]

Mr. Bradshaw: When equidae (including donkeys) are sent from another EU member state into Great Britain, Community law requires the Veterinary Authorities of that member state to enter the details of the movement into a Community-wide computerised messaging system, so that the member state of receipt is made aware of the movement. Community law provides for random checks by the authorities in the receiving member state at places of destination, but not at the point of import unless non-compliance is suspected. In GB these checks are carried out by the State Veterinary Service (SVS).

Equidae may only be imported into the EU from approved third countries and are required to undergo veterinary checks at a Border Inspection Post (BIP) in the first member state of entry. All imports of equidae must have an official Export Health Certificate from the exporting country. The veterinary check consists of a documentary, identity and physical check, which may include sampling.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what animal health checks are carried out on donkeys and other equidae entering the UK. [181689]

Mr. Bradshaw: To be eligible for import into the UK, donkeys and all other equidae must meet the health requirements of the European Community in relation to freedom from dourine, glanders, equine encephalomyelitis, vesicular stomatitis, equine infectious anaemia, rabies and anthrax. The donkey must not have had contact with other equidae suffering from infection or contagious disease and it must be fit to be transported on the intended journey.

In respect of movements within member states, an Official Veterinarian of the member state of origin must inspect the animal within 48 hours of export and issue an Export Health Certificate (EHC), confirming that the health requirements have been met.

There are strict controls on the health of donkeys entering from third countries. They must enter from an approved country and must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate, this will confirm that all health requirements have been complied with.

The EHC must be presented at the Border Inspection Post (BIP) upon arrival on EU territory. Here the animal will be subject to veterinary checks consisting of a documentary, identity and physical check, which may include sampling.

Drainage Rates

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of drainage rates paid by landowners is in each region of England. [182024]

Mr. Morley: Information on the individual level of drainage rates raised by Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) is not held centrally. The amounts collected through drainage rates paid by landowners to IDBs in 2002–03 (the last year for which we have information) were:

Region	*£ million*
Anglian	9.36
Yorkshire	1.2
Severn Trent	1 0
Wessex	0.43
Southern	0.3

As regards the Environment Agency's Anglian Region a General Drainage Charge is payable on agricultural land and buildings that are outside IDB districts. These rates differ in each area of the region but yielded a total of £3.2 million in 2002–03 the latest year for which figures are available.

Essex Local Flood Defence Committee

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of the Essex Local Flood Defence Committee. [182028]

Mr. Morley: In March 2003 the Government announced the intention to create a single tier of flood defence committee by abolishing the local tier which exists within three of the nine regional flood defence committee areas in England. I have now completed my consideration of the Environment Agency's proposals for new committee structures and have decided to accept their recommendations as set out in my written ministerial statement to Parliament on 1 July.

As a result, I intend that all local flood defence committees in the Agency's Anglian Region, including the Essex LFDC, will be wound up with effect from 1 April 2005. I also intend that the present Anglian RFDC area be split to create three new RFDCs. One new RFDC would comprise the areas of the present Essex and Norfolk and Suffolk local flood defence committees; one the area of the present Great Ouse local flood defence committee; and one the area of the present Welland and Nene and Lincolnshire local flood defence committees. I also said that we would review the splitting of the current Anglian region after three years of operation.

Fisheries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what fishing rights will accrue to each of the 10 new countries that have acceded to the EU in *(a)* British waters and *(b)* the North Sea. [181733]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 July 2004]*: None of the 10 new member states have fishing rights in British Waters, no other member states' fishing vessels have access to the coastal zone within six nautical miles of the UK's shoreline, and within 6–12 mile zone, access to certain fisheries in certain parts of the zone is limited to the following five member states with historical rights there: France, Belgium, Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands.

While the principle of free access in the Community's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from 12 to 200 miles offshore applies to all member states, none of the 10 new member states has been allocated quota in the North sea.

Fly-tipping

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what resources are being provided to tackle fly-tipping in Bath and North East Somerset. [182499]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency and local authorities have a range of powers to deal with illegally dumped waste or fly-tipping. Local authorities receive funding through the EPCS element of their block grant and will decide resource allocations according to local priorities.

Defra has recently consulted on its Fly-Tipping Strategy and is looking at bringing forward proposals to encourage all local authorities to tackle fly-tipping with preventative policies. This should lead to cost savings as authorities focus on prevention and deterrence rather than expensive clearance.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contractors that provided goods, services and works to her Department during the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001 were investigated for fraud offences;

and how many of those investigated *(a)* were prosecuted, *(b)* had the cases closed and *(c)* remain under investigation. [180792]

Mr. Bradshaw: Seven contractors were formally investigated by Defra Investigation Branch for fraud offences arising out of services provided during the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2001. No prosecutions took place in relation to those seven investigations and there are no outstanding investigations or prosecutions. In Scotland one contractor remains under investigation by the Police.

There were various allegations of fraud by contractors, farmers and others during the outbreak. 33 of these were investigated by the Defra Investigation Branch (see The National Audit Office Report "The 2001 Outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease" Executive Summary at page 9 (HC 939 Session 2001–2002; 21 June 2002). Six people were ultimately prosecuted by Defra for fraud offences:

Three members of staff were prosecuted and pleaded guilty to making false subsistence claims and were ordered to complete Community punishment orders and to pay compensation to Defra totalling £5,883. All three were dismissed.

Three farmers were prosecuted for making false compensation claims; one farmer pleaded guilty and was fined £3,500, two other farmers were acquitted. No money was obtained from Defra in these cases.

There are no outstanding prosecutions by Defra of anyone for any offences during the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2001.

There were a significant number of contractual disputes between Defra and contractors in relation to work completed during the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2001, some of which were and continue to be the subject of legal proceedings.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures she has taken to ensure that an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease can be contained. [183241]

Mr. Bradshaw: The measures that the Government would take in the event of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease are set out in the Defra FMD Contingency Plan, the latest version of which was laid before Parliament at the end of March 2004. These include the immediate imposition of movement controls on all susceptible livestock, strict biosecurity requirements and enhanced options for controlling the disease. Vaccination would be considered from the outset of an outbreak in addition to the culling of all susceptible animals on infected premises and those that have been exposed to infection, as required by EU law. We are engaging with operational partners and with stakeholders to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities and the measures that would be taken in an outbreak. Plans are also in place in the event of an outbreak to enable a rapid increase in staff resources and the implementation of contingency contracts including that for vaccination. We have revised the instructions for staff and are ensuring that they are trained and equipped to deal with an outbreak of disease.

A national exercise to test the contingency plans and the Government's preparedness was held on 29 and 30 June, involving people from across Defra, other government departments and operational partners enacting days seven and eight of an FMD outbreak. The Department will be publishing a report of the lessons learned from the exercise in the autumn and a revised Contingency Plan will be laid before Parliament next March.

Forestry Policy

Mrs. Helen Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government will publish its response to the report An Economic Analysis of Forestry Policy in England. [182653]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 July 2004]:* As was made clear at the time the report was published on 5 June 2003, the analysis formed part of a broad review of forestry arrangements in England that was agreed as part of the Defra settlement of the Spending Review 2002. In the event, that review contributed to Lord Haskins' review of the arrangements for delivering the Government's rural policies in England, the detailed follow up to which we are working on. We do not intend to respond separately to "An Economic Analysis of Forestry Policy in England", although the report itself remains available as a valuable source of information to those interested in forestry policy inside and outside government.

Litter

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the issuing of fines for dropping litter; and what plans she has to introduce and enforce a uniform policy for the issuing of fines for dropping litter. [182436]

Alun Michael: The policy on fixed penalty notices is uniform across England as all local authorities are empowered to issue fixed penalty notices of £50 for the offence of dropping litter.

Enforcement on the ground may differ between areas as it is for local authorities to decide whether to make use of this power. I hope that many more local authorities will use fixed penalty notices for littering now that the receipts can be used to offset the costs of enforcement.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to provide money to local councils to help them with the cost of keeping streets clean. [182437]

Alun Michael: Local authorities receive funding for street cleansing through allocations to the Environmental Protection and Cultural Services (EPCS) block. The funding for this block will increase by over £1 billion between 2003 and 2006.

Managed Realignment Schemes

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what

provision exists for the payment of compensation to landowners where managed realignment schemes are established. [182027]

Mr. Morley: Defra has provided flood and coastal defence operating authorities with guidance on the circumstances in which land purchase and financial compensation for managed realignment of river or coastal flood defences can be funded from the Defra flood management budget under current legislation.

Except in limited circumstances outlined as follows, no compensation is payable to those affected by flooding or erosion, including cases where it is decided not to defend a particular area, or to undertake managed realignment. This approach, adopted by successive governments, is justified by current legislation which provides operating authorities with permissive powers to undertake flood and coastal defence works. Save for the specific requirements of the Habitats Directive there is no general obligation to build or maintain defences at all or to a particular standard. Consonant with this approach, the legislation also makes no provision for compensation from public funds to persons whose property or land is affected by erosion or flooding.

Payment is possible where quantifiable beneficial use arises. Thus land may be acquired for the construction or maintenance of defences and compensation paid for damage arising expressly from such operations. Also, in some circumstances, where land seaward of justifiable new defences can be shown to contribute to effective defence, landowners may be eligible for payment for depreciation or loss of land. Finally, if a defence is realigned landward, land currently in agricultural use may be considered for payments under agri-environment schemes if a long-term return to inter- tidal habitat fulfils the relevant objectives.

Over-thirty-months Scheme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to modify the current over-thirty-months slaughter scheme, with particular regard to cows born before August 1996; and what discussions her Department has had with the Department of Health on this issue. [182918]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the FSA recommendations to change the over-thirty-month rule made in July 2003 it has been decided that cattle born before 1 August 1996 will not, in any event, be allowed into the food chain and that a modified over-thirty-month scheme will remain in place for these animals.

The Department has convened regular discussions involving all stakeholders, including the Department of Health, which would be affected by the replacement of the OTM rule by BSE testing.

Parliamentary Questions

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions her Department received in the 2002–03 Session. [182717]

Alun Michael: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 3 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 937W.

Racing Greyhounds

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what action she is taking to improve the welfare of racing greyhounds at non-National Greyhound Racing Club registered independent tracks; [181785]

(2) what action her Department is taking to improve the welfare of racing greyhounds; [181786]

(3) what action she is taking to increase retirement provision for racing greyhounds. [181787]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government plans to publish the draft Animal Welfare Bill this summer. The draft Bill seeks to introduce a duty of care which will cover all domestic and captive animals, including current and former racing greyhounds. The Bill will also allow the introduction of secondary legislation to regulate certain activities, and the welfare of racing greyhounds is a possible area for regulation. I and my officials have been discussing the implications of the Bill for greyhounds with welfare organisations, the industry and other government departments. I have found these discussions helpful and I intend to shortly make available a paper which will set out my response to the concerns that were raised.

Sea Level (Essex)

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the change in sea level off the Essex coast in each of the last 20 years. [182022]

Mr. Morley: Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL) hosts the permanent service for mean sea level (a global database for longer-term sea level change on the basis of information from tide gauges). POL has made assessments of the sea level changes at Sheerness, Southend and Tilbury over the 1901–99 period. This indicates an increase in mean sea level at Sheerness (taken as representing the Essex and Kent coasts) of 20 centimetres over the 20th century, equivalent to an average rate of 4 centimetres over the last 20 years. The full figures are summarised in the United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme report "London's Warming". The full series can be found at www.pol.ac.uk/ntslf/products.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the likely change in sea level off the Essex coast over the next 20 years. [182023]

Mr. Morley: The United Kingdom report Climate Change Scenarios for the UK (April 2002) estimates sea level and land changes to the 2080s, relative to 1961–90. For Eastern England, these indicate a rise in mean sea level of 22 centimetres or 82 centimetres depending on scenario. The report can be found at www.ukcip.org.uk.

For project appraisal purposes, Defra's current guidance to operating authorities is to include a 6 millimetre a year precautionary allowance for relative sea level rise for the Essex coast.

Sea Walls

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirement exists for the provision of compensatory habitat where *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* improvement of sea walls takes place. [182029]

Mr. Morley: Any requirement for compensatory habitat arising from the maintenance or improvement of sea walls will depend on whether there would be an adverse effect on a site designated under the European Birds or Habitats Directives. Detailed guidance on the appraisal of plans and projects which are likely to have a significant effect on such European sites and guidance under which compensatory measures are required, is provided in "Managing Natura 2000 sites": the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ EEC" published by the European Communities in 2000. Where the maintenance or improvement of sea walls would not have an adverse effect on a European site, there would be no requirement for compensatory measures.

There is a more general requirement on Member States under the Birds Directive to "take requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Article 1" of the Directive. Defra is currently considering what measures the Government should take in this respect as a result of coastal squeeze (i.e. loss of inter-tidal habitat through sea level rise against sea walls).

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition is used to distinguish between the maintenance and the improvement of sea walls. [182030]

Mr. Morley: Maintenance of a sea wall maintains the current standard and structural integrity of the defence.

Improvement of a sea wall results in an increase in the standards of protection, or major refurbishment.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultation will take place before a decision is taken to abandon a section of sea wall. [182032]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency, in consultation with key stakeholders, will develop an exit strategy for withdrawing from the maintenance of uneconomic seawalls. Consultations will be undertaken through the development of Shoreline Management Plans and strategies.

The exit strategy will involve informing affected landowners, occupiers of the land, and the Highways Authority of the Environment Agency's plans; providing interested parties an opportunity to make representations; advising landowners of the condition of the seawall; and informing them of their options. In many cases, seawalls for which there is no maintenance justification may have a substantial residual life.

The Environment Agency will inform landowners and/or occupiers of the anticipated residual life, existing standard of defence and the condition of the structures at the earliest opportunity, together with any other relevant information such as their rights, responsibilities and options after the Agency stops maintenance. This information will help affected parties to deal with the change in circumstances in the most beneficial way.

Consultation with the Highways Authority will be important to ensure that any issues associated with public rights of way are fully considered.

Landowners will have an opportunity to make representations before a decision to stop maintaining a seawall is taken. Landowners will also be given a reasonable period of notice when a final decision is made that may affect their property.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of sea wall on the Essex coast have had maintenance work done on them in each of the last 20 years. [182025]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency understands that, over the last 20 years, the majority of the 275.6 miles of sea walls in Essex have had some form of maintenance work carried out on them. The Agency does not keep records for every location where maintenance work has been undertaken in any given year.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* improvement of sea walls on the Essex coast in each of the last 20 years. [182026]

Mr. Morley: The following table details the amount spent on sea walls on the Essex coast in each of the last 20 years. These figures come from the Essex Local Flood Defence Committee Annual Reports.

£

Financial year	*(a) Maintenance work*	*(b) Capital improvements*
1984–85	853	2,734
1985–86	1,200	2,193
1986–87	1,220	4,951
1987–88	918	6,250
1988–89	1,127	6,318
1989–90	1,522	5,296
1990–91	1,836	3,826
1991–92	2,416	8,914
1992–93	2,180	8,667
1993–94	2,234	8,844
1994–95	2,159	5,655
1995–96	2,451	6,293
1996–97	2,360	4,248
1997–98	2,014	5,230
1998–99	2,249	6,938
1999/2000	1,987	4,808
2000–01	1,761	2,530
2001–02	1,526	3,231
2002–03	2,344	3,676
2003–04	2,100	3,316
Total	36,457	103,918

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the most recent assessment is of the state of the sea walls on the Essex coast. [182031]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency has advised that in its 2003–04 assessment of flood defences in Essex, 86.6 per cent. of the 1,774 km of defences were classified as fair or better.

This assessment does not distinguish between tidal and fluvial defences.

Squirrels

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to establish control on populations of grey squirrels; what regulations are in place on the permitted methods of despatch by landowners; and if she will make a statement. [178085]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 June 2004]:* Grey squirrels are very difficult animals to control particularly on a wide scale and it is not practical to eradicate them totally. The Forestry Commission is engaged in the preparation of a policy statement on grey squirrels. This is one of the commitments made in the response to the recommendations contained in the "Sustaining England's Woodlands" review. It will recommend appropriate strategies for managing grey squirrels in England.

The UK red squirrel Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group (UKRSG) has identified those areas of the UK where action to maintain red squirrels is most likely to be effective in the long-term. In northern England, these priorities are being translated into management plans for key forest areas, where it is believed a combination of large-scale habitat management in forests and buffer areas allied to surveillance and targeted grey squirrel control gives the red squirrel the best chance of survival.

The Forestry Commission provides current Best Practice guidance on the control of grey squirrel populations. The methods currently available are the use of Warfarin poison for protection against bark stripping damage to woodlands, where there are no red squirrels or pine martens. This is regulated under 'The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986'. The use of Warfarin for plant protection is currently under review by the Plant Protection Directorate of the EU, and there is a risk that it may not be available for use in the future.

Cage trapping is as effective as poisoning at removing squirrels but more costly in terms of labour. Failing to check traps regularly may be an offence under the 'Protection of Animals Act 1911', and the 'Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996'.

Spring traps (tunnel traps) may be used to take squirrels, but there is an increased risk to non-target species. The use of Spring traps is regulated under the Pests Act 1954, and only traps approved under the 'Spring Traps (Approval) Order may be used.

Shooting is generally ineffective at reducing numbers sufficiently to prevent bark-stripping damage, but can be effective for removal of nuisance squirrels, for example in amenity areas.

The regulations on the permitted methods of dispatch include the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which lists prohibited methods. Under Schedule 9, Section 14 of the Act it is an offence to release grey squirrels into the wild.

Options for non-lethal control are not currently practicable for squirrels, however the Forestry Commission is keeping them under review.

Urban Foxes

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the urban fox population in each of the last 10 years. [182392]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely collate data on the levels of urban fox populations, but commissions research into the subject from time to time. There have been a number of fox population estimates, the most generally accepted being that produced by Harris "et al" (1995), who estimated that in Britain there are 240,000 adult foxes at the start of the breeding season, and that these produce around 425,000 cubs each spring. Of these, 33,000 adult foxes (14 per cent.) live in urban areas. The total pre-breeding population in England is 195,000 adults, 22,000 in Wales and 23,000 in Scotland.

The paucity of population data for this species in rural habitats makes it particularly difficult to produce a population estimate. The fox population estimate for urban areas, in contrast, is based on more extensive data, and Harris "et al" (1995) considered it to be more reliable than that for rural areas.

Wye Valley

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of grant will be awarded to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and how much will be awarded to the *(a)* English side and *(b)* Welsh side. [181307]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total grant to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for 2004–05 will be £142,789.47 of which *(a)* £91,384.47 will be awarded by the Countryside Agency for the English side and *(b)* £51,405 will be awarded by the Countryside Council for Wales for the Welsh side.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcohol

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects Ofcom will report on its review of alcohol advertising; what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* instruction (i) she and (ii) her Department (A) has provided and (B) will be providing about the review and its remit; and if she will make a statement. [182794]

Estelle Morris: The Department has discussed with Ofcom the recommendations of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England—published by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit—and they have confirmed that they are considering these issues as part of their review of the rules on broadcast advertising for alcoholic drinks. Ofcom are considering the adequacy of the current rules in the light both of academic research and specially commissioned studies; I understand that they intend to consult on any proposed changes this

summer. The Department has been briefed on progress with this work but the content of the Codes remains Ofcom's responsibility.

Departmental Administration Costs

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on her Department's forecast rise in administration costs for 2005–06. [183169]

Mr. Caborn: The Department's administration cost limit rises from £46 million in 2004–05 to £49 million in 2005–06. This increase reflects additional activities the Department faces. These include, among others, the broadcasting reviews, the Licensing Act, the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Bill, a Gambling Bill if legislative time can be found. All of these activities need to be specifically resourced both while they are in progress and to deal with any subsequent action arising from them.

The Department also faces some additional accommodation costs and plans to make further investment in IT to ensure that as many services as possible can be provided electronically.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 46W, for what reasons the information provided on her Department's planned administrative costs for 2004–05 and 2005–06 was not included in her Department's annual review. [183227]

Mr. Caborn: When the Annual Review was compiled, no estimate had been made of the breakdown between pay and non-pay costs. The figures for administration costs in 2004–05 and 2005–06 at page 69 of the Review are simply the Department's administration cost limits.

English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if she will publish the report of consultants examining the scope for merging English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund; and if she will make a statement; [183281]

(2) whether she plans to separate the operational responsibilities of English Heritage from its role as a regulator, funder and provider of advice; and if she will make a statement; [183283]

(3) what assessment has been undertaken of the responsibilities of different heritage organisations reporting to her Department; if she will place this in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [183284]

Tessa Jowell: We commissioned PKF to review the structure of Government support for the historic environment in England. Their report focused on the options for a possible change in the relationship between English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The report will shortly be available on the DCMS website www.culture.gov.uk. I am arranging for copies of the report to be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

We have accepted its overall conclusion that while there is no business case for a merger of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, there is scope for substantial savings from rationalisation of shared functions. We are considering next steps with English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund in light of the report.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the means-tested benefits available through her Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182593]

Mr. Caborn: There are no means-tested benefits available through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, nor were any available in May 1997.

The only means-tested benefit available through the Department's sponsored bodies is the 'World Class Performance Programme' which is now run by Sport England and UK Sport. This benefit was also available in May 1997 but was solely administered by Sport England as UK Sport was not established as a Lottery Distributor until 1 July 1999.

National Lottery

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to *(a)* identify and *(b)* reduce the number of Lottery retailers who are selling Lottery products to under 16-year-olds. [183010]

Estelle Morris: Camelot have in place a number of measures, agreed with the National Lottery Commission. These include an extensive test-purchasing programme, in which Lottery tickets are bought by 16-year-olds who look younger. During the second licence period Camelot have committed to undertaking 10,000 test purchases a year (twice the number in the first licence period). Camelot also work with trading standards officers, and will suspend the use of Lottery terminals where retailers have sold Lottery products to under age players. Camelot also provides retailers with training on preventing underage play and display materials to reinforce the message; and runs a hotline enabling the public to report concerns about possible cases of unauthorised sales.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182943]

Mr. Caborn: The following non-departmental public bodies have been established:

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Film Council (now known as UK Film Council)

Football Task Force

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts

National Lottery Commission (which took over the role of regulating the National Lottery from the Office of the National Lottery, a non-ministerial department)

Millennium Commission

New Opportunities Fund

New Millennium Experience Company Ltd.

The Regional Cultural Consortiums:

Culture North East (North East Cultural Consortium)

East Midlands Cultural Consortium

Living East (East of England Cultural Consortium)

North West Cultural Consortium

South East England Cultural Consortium

South West Regional Cultural Consortium

West Midlands Life Cultural Consortium

Yorkshire Cultural Consortium

Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries (now known as Museums, Libraries and Archives Council)

Spoliation Advisory Panel

Treasure Valuation Committee

Working Group on Human Remains

The following has taken on NDPB status:

Historic Royal Palaces (formerly an Executive Agency)

The following non-departmental public bodies have been abolished:

Broadcasting Standards Commission

Football Task Force

Great Britain Sports Council

Library and Information Commission

Museums and Galleries Commission

New Millennium Experience Company Ltd.

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Royal Fine Art Commission

Historical Manuscripts Commission (the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts) (became part of National Archives)

Working Group on Human Remains

The following organisations still exist but no longer have non-departmental public body status:

Craft Council

British Film Institute

National Film and Television School

In addition to the above, the Community Fund (formerly known as the National Lotteries Charities Board) and New Opportunities Fund remain separate legal entities but have now administratively merged to form the Big Lottery Fund. Both the United Kingdom Sports Council (operating name: UK Sport) and the English Sports Council (operating name: Sport England) were established by Royal Charter in 1996 and came into being on 1 January 1997 (replacing the GB Sports Council). Functions of the English Tourism Council and the British Tourist Authority (BTA) were merged to form VisitBritain and the England Marketing Advisory Board (EMAB) was formed to advise VisitBritain. VisitBritain is established by statute as the BTA and EMAB as the English Tourist Board.

The Department has taken on sponsorship responsibility from the Home Office for the following:

Alcohol Education and Research Council

Gaming Board for Great Britain

Horserace Betting Levy Board

Horserace Betting Levy Board

Obesity

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she next plans to meet *(a)* the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Health to discuss tackling the problem of obesity in school children; and whether her Department is taking the lead on this issue. [183170]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State holds regular meetings with both the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and the Secretary of State for Health. The complex issue of obesity is being tackled right across Government through the Choosing Health? consultation which will inform the development of a White Paper on Public Health, due for publication later this year. The process is being led by the Department of Health and overseen by the Cabinet Committee on Public Health.

Olympic Games

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total budget is for ministerial visits to the Athens Olympic Games. [183550]

Mr. Caborn: No specific budget has been allocated for DCMS ministerial visits to the Athens Olympic Games. Costs will be met from the existing DCMS Travel and Subsistence budget for the financial year of 2004–2005.

All DCMS ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what class of ticket *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials will use to visit the Athens Olympic Games. [183551]

Mr. Caborn: All DCMS ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. DCMS Ministers and officials will travel by business class.

WALES

Chernobyl

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment the Government have made of the impact on human health of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986. [180613]

Mr. Touhig: The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) provides information and advice to persons, including Government Departments, in relation to the protection of the community or particular sections of the community from radiation hazards.

The National Public Health Service Wales works closely with the NRPB to address such health issues and provide support to Local Health Boards to work with communities when concerns relating to the health of the local population arise.

The Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters (CERRIE) has been reviewing the risk models relating to the inhalation or ingestion of radioactivity, and as part of its review has considered

the international epidemiological research on health effects arising from the Chernobyl incident. CERRIE is expected to publish its report in the autumn. It will be considered by the UK expert Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) who will then advise the UK Government.

EU Structural Funding

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate his Department has made of the amount of EU Structural Funding in Wales that remains unspent in the 2000 to 2006 spending programme. [180921]

Mr. Touhig: At the end of May 2004, nearly £900 million of structural funds had been committed in Wales, representing nearly 57 per cent. of the total allocation for 2000–06. The total grant paid was £440 million.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on the implementation process of the 2000 to 2006 EU Structural Funding programme in Wales. [180951]

Mr. Touhig: Not all the costs of implementing the programmes are held centrally, therefore an accurate figure is not available. The administration of the structural fund programmes in Wales is devolved to the National Assembly for Wales. The programmes are delivered on a partnership basis, involving a large number of key stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the contribution of the 2000 to 2006 EU structural funding programme to the gross domestic product of Wales. [181010]

Mr. Touhig: The latest GDP figures for Wales are for 2002. As the structural fund programmes are long-term programmes, projects can be approved until 2006 and funds can be drawn down until December 2008. It is therefore far too early to be able to measure the impact of the structural fund programmes on GDP.

However, to the end of May 2004, more than 62,000 jobs were created or safeguarded by structural funds in Wales.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list for each year since the office's creation the number of miles flown by each Minister in the office on official departmental business. [181865]

Mr. Touhig: We are unable to provide this information, as the Wales Office does not record it and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Pay Differentials

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister for Women what recent assessment she has made of the pay differential between women and men in Greater London. [183147]

Ms Hewitt: The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the pay differential between women and men working full-time in Greater London was 23.5 per cent. in 2003, which was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. from 2002. The pay differential between women working part-time and men working full-time in Greater London was 46.3 per cent. in 2003—a decrease of 2.5 per cent. from 2002.

TRANSPORT

Airports

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the guidance given to Nottingham East Midlands airport on *(a)* the preparation of its master plan and *(b)* the consultation process which would follow its publication. [183408]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has today published guidance for airport operators on the preparation of master plans. It is of general application, and there is no specific guidance to the operator of Nottingham East Midlands airport. Copies of the guidance have been placed in the House Library and will also be available on the Department's website, at www.dft.gov.uk.

Devolution

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to extend transport powers to *(a)* passenger transport authorities and *(b)* the proposed directly elected regional assemblies. [183141]

Mr. McNulty: The transport powers of elected regional assemblies were set out in the White Paper "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions" (Cm5511). In his announcement to Parliament on the rail review on 19 January 2004, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said that we would consider devolving more decisions on public transport—including rail—to devolved authorities and at a regional level to PTEs. The Government hope to announce the conclusions of the rail review shortly.

Mobile Telephones

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on making the use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving an endorsable offence; [183199]

(2) when he intends bringing forward legislation to make the use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving an endorsable offence. [183200]

Mr. Jamieson: Ministers in the Department regularly meet their colleagues. The Government are committed to making the use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving an endorsable offence. We will amend Schedule 2 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 when a suitable legislative opportunity arises.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the level of compliance by drivers with the legislation forbidding the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving. [183201]

Mr. Jamieson: A survey carried out in April 2004 found that 1.2 per cent. of car drivers and 2.1 per cent. of other drivers were using hand-held phones. This indicates that the use of hand-held mobile phones by car drivers has dropped by 21 per cent. and for other drivers by 22 per cent. since the new offence came into force on 1 December 2003.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business Support Agencies

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money has been spent on business support agencies in the last year. [182551]

Nigel Griffiths: The main business support agencies DTI directly funds are the Business Link Operators (BLOs) who provide services to small businesses.

In 2003–04 BLOs received Core Services grants from the Small Business Service totalling £139.5 million.

Most BLOs sub-contract the delivery of key services to Enterprise Agencies and other service deliverers as do other Government Departments, RDAs, and local authorities. European funds are also available in certain areas. The level of funding varies from BLO to BLO based on local needs, priorities and access to additional funding streams. The SBS does not systematically collect information on the level of service provision sub-contracted by BLOs.

Carbon Sequestration

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment she has made of the cost and practicalities of introducing a viable method of delivering in respect of carbon sequestration; how much her Department has spent on investigating this concept; and whether gains made from this process would count towards the United Kingdom's carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets. [182875]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* The DTI and Defra have collaborated in work on Carbon Sequestration.

The Cleaner Fossil Fuel Unit of the DTI has undertaken a number of studies to assess the feasibility of Carbon Capture and Storage in the UK. The accumulation of this work was a report published in September 2003 that provides estimates of the costs of carbon sequestration and discusses the issues around its implementation. The report and its supporting documentation are available at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/co2capture. The work has been completed using effort from a combination of DTI officials and contractors (the estimated cost of the latter is £600,000).

The Marine and Waterways Division of Defra is concerned to protect the marine environment by ensuring that carbon sequestration in the maritime area is properly regulated. In 2003 Defra commissioned a literature review of research findings relevant to understanding the environmental impacts of release of sequestered CO_2 into the marine environment. Gaps in knowledge were identified and further research is planned. (Value £24,611.) A joint Defra/DTI seminar was held in October 2003 to help develop the UK's policy on the regulation of this activity and to enable OSPAR to decide what work, if any, it needed to do on this subject. (Cost to Defra £2,100). A summary of the report and information about the seminar can be found on Defra's website.

Work in the form of continuing discussions at OSPAR, The London Convention and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum is ongoing.

The use of carbon capture and storage would count towards the United Kingdom's Kyoto target provided the methods used had been subjected to international review and accepted by the UNFCCC review process. Methods are currently under consideration by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Defence Diversification

Mr. Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made on defence diversification, with particular reference to the extension of military expertise into civilian use through funding of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency; and if she will make a statement. [181055]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

In line with wider Government policy to maximise the commercial application of technology from all sources, the Ministry of Defence continues to support defence diversification, including by investment in developing new technology in its supplier base and the establishment of new collaborative partnerships with industry and academia through such initiatives as Defence Technology Centres and Towers of Excellence. There are also links in place with other Departments to share good practice including in the context of the cross Government science initiative.

One of the prime objectives of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Public Private Partnership, announced in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, was to enhance the opportunity for the exploitation of technology generated by the Agency's laboratories. The creation of QinetiQ in 2001, and its progressive transfer to the private sector with the specific role of maximising the commercial return from its intellectual capital, was the single biggest encouragement of defence technology diversification. The other successor organisation to DERA, Dstl which was retained within the MOD, also has a role in exploiting defence technology. Dstl has achieved this through the establishment of Joint Ventures and licensing. In addition, the Defence Diversification Agency (DDA), set up initially within DERA in 1999, has promoted

interchange between the defence and civil sectors to create jobs and wealth for the UK economy. The DDA has been active across many technologies and sectors particularly with Small and Medium Enterprises.

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment she has made of the timescale for the Employment Agency Standards inspectorate to visit all employment agencies operating in the UK. [183222]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no reliable data on the number of employment agencies currently operating in Great Britain so it is not possible to make such an estimate.

The Employment Agency Standards (EAS) inspectorate follows up every complaint it receives about the conduct of an employment agency and in addition also carries out targeted inspections of employment agencies. EAS also refers complaints to, and accepts complaints from, other enforcement bodies.

Energy Supplies (Imports)

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps her Department is taking to encourage imports of energy supplies from West Africa. [183206]

Mr. Timms: The Energy White Paper makes clear that the Government consider that the robustness of the UK's energy systems will be enhanced by a range of energy sources.

It is, however, for the private sector to decide where they may best purchase oil and gas to fulfil contracts to supply UK energy needs.

The White Paper also states that the Government believe that their role in this context is to support the creation of an economic environment conducive to investment and that we will continue to engage, inter alia, with African countries, focusing on good governance and the development of stable investment and transit regimes.

In September 2002 at the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development the Prime Minister launched his Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). This aims to work with countries and multi nationals to improve standards of governance, reduce opportunities for corruption and develop a stable investment environment. It is envisaged that West African countries will be invited to participate in this initiative.

Energy Supply

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will make a statement on the stability and security of energy supply. [182763]

Mr. Timms: The Government attaches great importance to reliable energy supplies—maintaining reliable energy supplies is one of the four key goals of the Government's energy policy identified in our Energy White Paper, published last year.

National Grid Transco (NGT), the company responsible for operating the electricity and gas transmission networks, has statutory and licence obligations to develop, maintain and operate the electricity and gas transmission systems in an economic, efficient and co-ordinated manner. The reliability and resilience of these transmission systems are among the factors that the energy regulator, Ofgem takes into account when assessing whether NGT has met its obligations.

In its recent preliminary Winter Outlook Report, NGT reported that

> "under all credible scenarios, there will be enough gas and electricity to meet winter demand".

NGT also reported that the England and Wales electricity plant margin for next winter is projected at 20.2 per cent., and there is mothballed plant that could potentially return to the system, which could raise the plant margin to 23.2 per cent.

Through the Joint Energy Security of Supply working group, the DTI and Ofgem continue to monitor the stability and security of energy supplies throughout the UK. The latest JESS report was published in May and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues regarding the long-term security of United Kingdom energy supplies. [183205]

Mr. Timms: Maintaining reliable energy supplies is one of the four objectives of the Energy White Paper (February 2003), which set the strategy for energy policy to 2050. Ministers were closely involved in discussions during its preparation. Delivery of the White Paper's commitments is carried out through the Sustainable Energy Policy Network (SEPN), a network of policy units from across government departments, the devolved administrations, regulators and other organisations which have a direct role to play. Its work is overseen by a Ministerial Committee which meets quarterly and regularly discusses issues relating to security of supply.

Sakhalin II Project

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff from the Export Credits Guarantee Department visited the Sakhalin oil and gas project in Russia in June; what their positions are within the agency; how much the visit cost; and who funded it. [182650]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Two staff from ECGD visited the Sakhalin II project, along with environmental experts from the other potential lending institutions and the lenders' environmental consultants. The ECGD staff members were an Environmental Analyst from the Business Principles Unit and a Senior Underwriter from the Business Group.

Travel and accommodation costs for the ECGD staff totalled around £7,100. As with all other project due diligence costs, this sum will be reimbursed by the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department will produce a report of its Sakhalin oil and gas project visit; and whether that report will be made public. [182651]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of ECGD's internal assessment of the Sakhalin II project, staff visited Sakhalin Island along with environmental experts from the other potential lending institutions and the lenders' environmental consultants. They held meetings with Sakhalin Energy's project managers and engineers, and discussed a range of environmental and social issues, including Western Gray Whales, river crossing strategies, oil spill modelling and resettlement. They also met with Sakhalin residents and local NGOs and reviewed construction at the main project sites.

A report on the visit will be prepared as part of ECGD's internal assessment and will be made available for other Government Departments. There are no plans for it to be published.

In accordance with normal procedures, before a decision is made on ECGD cover for the project, full details of the environmental and social impact assessments will be made publicly available by the project sponsors.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans she has to develop a comprehensive strategy for the supply and use of heat as recommended by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in its report 'Energy—The Changing Climate'. [182037]

Mr. Timms: The RCEP report 'The Changing Climate' is one of a number of documents published in recent years containing evidence and recommendations which will help inform the review of the Climate Change Programme. The Government will also be publishing its detailed response to the more recent RCEP special report 'Biomass as a Renewable Energy Source', which contained specific measures to promote the supply and use of renewable heat.

Military Equipment

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether military equipment sent from the United Kingdom to be used by British forces serving overseas is included in statistics relating to the value of British exports. [181764]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 380W, by my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey).

Departmental Staff (Scotland)

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff in her Department are employed in Scotland. [182868]

Ms Hewitt: The Department employs 258 staff in Scotland.

Departmental Administration Costs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1560W, on the departmental annual report, what the difference is on an equivalent basis of the net administration costs in 2002–03 and 2003–04. [183224]

Ms Hewitt: The difference on an equivalent basis for the net administration costs between 2002–03 and 2003–04 is £16 million. This was awarded through Spending Review 2002 and included an additional £8 million for front line services in the Employment Tribunals Service, ACAS and the Insolvency Service, £5 million for electronic government IT services and an additional £3 million covering a range of activities across the Department.

Post Offices

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* post offices and *(b)* sub-post offices there were in London on 31 March. [182350]

Mr. Timms: I understand from Post Office Ltd. that there were 1,010 post offices in total in the London region as at 31 March 2004. I do not have a breakdown of the directly managed post offices and sub-post offices, and I have asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices and sub-post offices in London will have closed by the end of the current round of consultation within the Network Reinvention framework; and what proportion this represents of the total at the start of the Reinvention programme. [182352]

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices are expected to close during the next year. [183179]

Mr. Timms: There is no predetermined list or number of future closures. All proposed closures are subject to the outcome of public consultations.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many London constituencies have been subject to notification of post office and sub-post office closures in the 2004–05 financial year; [182354]

(2) when she expects the consultations on post office and sub-post office closures in London to be complete. [182355]

Mr. Timms: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. and I have therefore asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of the urban population lived within one mile of a post office or sub-post office in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England and *(c)* each constituency in England at the most recent date for which information is available. [183138]

Mr. Timms: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. and I have therefore asked the chief executive to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Postal Deliveries

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations she has made to the Post Office regarding the numbers of lost and late deliveries. [183178]

Mr. Timms: DTI Ministers and officials meet representatives from Post Office on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including lost and late deliveries.

During our discussions, we have received Allan Leighton's personal assurance that improving Royal Mail's quality of service is the company's top priority.

Service Sector Growth

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps her Department is planning to tackle the decline in economic growth of the UK service sector. [182756]

Ms Hewitt: According to official figures for the service sector, there were three consecutive quarters of rising growth between 2003 Ql and 2003 Q4, with growth moderating slightly in 2004 Ql from a particularly robust 2003 Q4. However, on an annual basis, service sector growth at 3.6 per cent. is at its highest level for nearly three years.

The service industries are a substantial component of the British economy and account for over 70 per cent. of UK GDP. The department is therefore committed to ensuring the sector continues to improve by helping to promote a high value added economy. The DTI is working to create the best environment for business success in the UK. We help business become more productive by promoting enterprise, innovation and creativity. We invest heavily in world-class science and technology and we stand up for fair and open markets in the UK, Europe and the world.

The Department's Business Group is doing work for a range of service sectors through its relationship managers, business support products, the SBS and the RDAs. The Small Firms Loan Guarantee continues to help the sector; in 2003–04 80 per cent. by number and 78 per cent. by value of SFLG loans being made to service sector businesses.

SMART Awards

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Smart awards will be made this year; and if she will make a statement. [182067]

Nigel Griffiths: The Smart scheme closed to new applications in August 2003 and the final 22 awards were made this year. The Grant for Research and Development was introduced in June 2003. Offers of Grant for Research and Development worth £28 million were made to 320 innovative small businesses in the period January to June 2004.

Supermarkets

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what mechanism there is within her Department to ensure that the Office of Fair Trading appropriately discharges its responsibilities in respect of investigating competition issues, with particular reference to the supermarket sector. [182859]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is an independent competition authority, and Parliament recently strengthened its independence in the Enterprise Act 2002.

Under the Enterprise Act 2002 the Secretary of State appoints the OFT Board and can remove Board members "on the grounds of incapacity or misbehaviour".

There are appeal procedures for decisions made by the OFT. The Competition Act 1998 and Enterprise Act 2002 define the scope for appeals. These appeals are made to, and determined by, the Competition Appeal Tribunal. These provisions apply equally to decisions made concerning the supermarket sector as to decisions made concerning other sectors.

Mobile Telephones

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will commission an independent review of the testing of shielding devices and hands-free kits for mobile telephones; and what plans her Department has to encourage the use of hands-free kits. [182738]

Mr. Timms: The Stewart report on Mobile Phones and Health (May 2000) recommended independent testing of shielding devices and hands-free kits. My Department commissioned independent testing of shielding devices and hands-free kits, and published the results in 2001–02. The Mobile Telecommunications and Health research (MTHR) programme recommended further work on hands-free kits. The University of York undertook this work, and the results have been made available in scientific conferences. The final report will be made available on the MTHR website (www.mthr.org.uk) in due course.

The Department has no plans to encourage the use of hands-free kit. Mobile phones should comply with the exposure guidelines of the International Commission on Non Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). In their advice leaflets on Mobile Phones and Health the Department of Health said:

> "you can choose to minimise your exposure . . . keep your calls short, consider relative SAR values when buying a new phone".

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions she has had with the telecommunications industry in relation to the provision of health information to consumers. [182739]

Mr. Timms: The Department participates in Government's regular discussions with the mobile telecommunications industry about mobile phones and health. Government advice is provided in the Department of Health leaflet "Mobile Phones and Health". This advice is primarily for the public, but is also clearly relevant to industry. Advice is also available from the National Radiological Protection Board.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action has been undertaken by her Department to make SAR values for mobile telephones more readily accessible for consumers. [182740]

Mr. Timms: The Department held discussions with the mobile telecommunications industry following publication of the Stewart report on Mobile Phones and Health (May 2000), which recommended that information on SAR values be readily accessible to consumers. Government impressed on industry the need to have information available, at all points of sale, with each phone, and on the internet.

Women in the Work Force

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions her Department has had with stakeholders to advance the role of women in the workforce. [182755]

Ms Hewitt: My Department is in continual discussion with a wide range of stakeholders to advance the role of women in the workforce. We recognise the importance of meeting a wide variety of stakeholders to inform policy making. For example, the Women and Equality Unit regularly meets with representatives from the Trades Union Congress, the Equal Opportunities Commission, employers and women's organisations, both national and regional, as well as individual women such as leading academics and women from minority ethnic and faith communities.

Working Time Directive

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many individuals have benefited from the working time directive in *(a)* Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders region and *(c)* Scotland; and if she will make a statement. [180960]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Working Time Regulations provide workers with the right to refuse to work more than 48 hours on average, if they do not want to. Numbers are only available for Scotland at a national level. It has been estimated that around 230,000 workers resident in Scotland stood to benefit from the introduction of the weekly working time limits in 1998.

TREASURY

Betting Exchanges

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to publish a consultation paper on the tax treatment of betting exchanges and their clients. [183117]

John Healey: As set out in the 2004 Budget report [HC 301], we are continuing to work with the industry to settle a fair and equitable tax treatment for betting exchanges and their clients. Officials are therefore currently in dialogue with the industry, recognising that the industry is keen to have a settled arrangement for the taxation of betting exchanges and their clients that is fair and equitable.

Childcare Tax Credit (Northampton, North)

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many families in Northampton, North are in receipt of the childcare tax credit; [182842]

(2) how many people in Northampton, North get the childcare tax credit. [183751]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Burton (Mrs. Dean) on 15 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 98W.

Correspondence

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer the letter of 28 May from the hon. Member for Bath regarding the Civil Registration Order: Civil Marriages and Religious Content. [182524]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the General Registrar for England and Wales, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts to Mr. Don Foster, dated 12 July 2004:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking when your letter of 28 May to the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP regarding Civil Registration, will be answered. I am replying in his absence. (182524)

A reply to your letter was sent by Ruth Kelly MP, the Minister responsible for Civil Registration, on 5 July 2004. I apologise for the delay in the reply, which was to allow General Register Office officials sufficient time to put the necessary arrangements in place to address the issues you raised.

As Ruth Kelly states in her letter to you, we will shortly be announcing a review of the interpretation of the regulations governing the choice of readings and music that can be used in civil marriage ceremonies.

Cot Deaths

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the latest estimates are of the number of cot deaths. [182753]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger to Mr. Jim Cunningham, dated 12 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question on what the latest estimates are on the number of cot deaths. I am replying in his absence. (182753)

Figures on cot deaths are compiled using information recorded on death certificates. Each year a figure is produced of all infant deaths where the certifier mentioned "sudden infant death" or related terms such as "cot death" or "sudden infant death syndrome". This figure is referred to as "sudden infant deaths" in routine publications.

In 2002 (latest year for which figures are available) there were 187 sudden infant deaths in England and Wales. This figure is provisional. Final figures will be published in Health Statistics Quarterly 23, which is scheduled for publication on 19 August 2004.

Sustainable Development

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps have been taken by his Department to review arrangements for public reporting of sustainable development impacts; [181852]

(2) what arrangements his Department has in place to report publicly on its key sustainable development impacts. [181853]

John Healey: Impacts will be reported as appropriate in departmental annual and spring reports and in annual sustainability reports.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes there have been in *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* single occupancy car commuting from his Department against the baseline year in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181854]

John Healey: Road transport vehicle emissions have reduced by some 5 per cent. in Inland Revenue and some 8 per cent. in Customs. HM Treasury does not operate its own vehicle fleet. Figures are not available for single occupancy car commuting.

Departmental Water Use

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes there have been in water consumption by his Department for each year from 1997 to date. [181856]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested is not available. The Chancellor's Departments are fully committed to meeting the Government's water targets.

Efficiency Review

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans he has to publish Sir Peter Gershon's Report upon the conclusion of his Efficiency Review; [183279]

(2) what the scheduled date is for the conclusion of Sir Peter Gershon's Efficiency Review. [183280]

Mr. Boateng: The Efficiency Review led by Sir Peter Gershon will conclude on 12 July 2004 and further announcements on the outcome of the Review will be made when the 2004 Spending Review is presented.

Employment (Wansdyke)

Dan Norris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people aged 50 years and over were in employment in Wansdyke in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004. [182493]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Dan Norris, dated 16 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment. I am replying in his absence. (182493)

The attached table gives the number of people aged 50 and over, resident in the Wansdyke Parliamentary Constituency, who were in employment. The table also gives the employment rates for men aged 50 to 64 and women aged 50 to 59. The. data are for the twelve month periods ending February 1997 and February 2003. This is the latest period for which data are available.

Estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to sampling variability.

Employment of people aged 50 and over
Wansdyke parliamentary constituency, 12 month periods ending February 1997 and February 2003

	People aged 50 and over in employment (Thousand)	*Employment rate[1] (percentage)*
1997	12	83
2003	13	78

[1] People aged 50 to 64 (men) and 50 to 59 (women) in employment as a percentage of all persons in the relevant age group.
Source:
ONS—Labour Force Survey.

Income Tax (Pensioners)

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners in Warrington, North have qualified for the 10 per cent. rate of income tax in each year since its introduction. [182770]

Dawn Primarolo: All income taxpayers benefit from the 10p starting rate. The Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) estimates that there are around 7,000 and 8,000 state retirement pension age taxpayers in the Warrington, North constituency in 2000–01 and 2001–02 respectively. Figures for 1999–00 are currently not available.

Inland Revenue Staffing

Mr. Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff-customer ratio is for those contacting or receiving services from the Inland Revenue, broken down by *(a)* all staff, *(b)* staff dealing with customers face-to-face, *(c)* call centre staff and *(d)* staff processing claims without customer contact. [182532]

Dawn Primarolo: The following figures are expressed in terms of full-time equivalents (FTEs). The hours worked by part-time staff are aggregated and expressed as an equivalent number of full-time staff. The number of people employed is higher. In 2003–04:

(a) Inland Revenue staff totalled 73 000 FTEs. The Inland Revenue does not have figures for the total number of customers it deals with, because some people may be included in several categories. For example one individual may simultaneously pay tax through the PAYE system, make tax returns under the self assessment system, make national insurance contributions, and be entitled to tax credit payments.

Key Worker Living Scheme

Mrs. Lawrence: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 602W, on teachers (loans), whether a tax charge arises for teachers receiving loans under the Key Worker Living Scheme. [183910]

Dawn Primarolo: No taxable benefit will arise on key workers receiving loans under the Key Worker Scheme as there is no employer involvement in the making or facilitating of these loans.

Labour Statistics

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of unemployment was in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders and *(c)* Scotland, broken down by (i) age and (ii) gender. [182743]

Ruth Kelly *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Michael Moore, dated 12 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the level of unemployment in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders and *(c)* Scotland, broken down by (i) age and (ii) gender. I am replying in his absence. (182743)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached Table 1 gives the estimates of the number of people unemployed by gender and age in Scotland covering the twelve months ending February in 1997 and each year from 2000 to 2003. Figures for 1998 and 1999 are not yet available on a consistent basis. However, the LFS sample size is too small to give reliable estimates of unemployment in the Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Parliamentary Constituency and the Scottish Borders Unitary Authority. As with any statistical sample survey, estimates for the LFS are subject to sampling variability.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for local areas including Parliamentary Constituencies. The attached Table 2 gives the annual average number of JSA claimants by gender and age for the Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Parliamentary Constituency, the Scottish Borders Unitary Authority and the Scotland Government office region for each year from 1997 to 2003.

Table 1: Number of unemployed people in Scotland, 12 months ending February in 1997 and each year from 2000 to 2003[1]

Thousand

	1997	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
All persons					
All aged 16 and over	211	178	159	166	164
All of working age[2]	209	174	156	166	161
16 to 17	15	17	16	20	22
18 to 24	51	43	40	44	39
25 to 34	60	42	35	36	31
35 to 49	55	46	41	42	43
50 to working age limit[2]	28	26	24	24	26
Over pensionable age[2]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Men					
All aged 16 and over	142	106	98	105	99
All of working age[2]	141	105	96	105	98
16 to 17	10	11	9	14	12
18 to 24	33	25	23	28	25
25 to 34	40	26	21	19	17
35 to 49	35	24	25	25	25
50 to working age limit[2]	23	21	19	19	19
Over pensionable age[2]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Women					
All aged 16 and over	69	72	61	61	65
All of working age[2]	68	69	60	61	64
16 to 17	[3]	7	7	6	9
18 to 24	18	19	17	16	14
25 to 34	20	17	14	17	15
35 to 49	19	22	16	18	18
50 to working age limit[2]	6	[3]	[3]	[3]	7
Over pensionable age[2]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]

[1] Not seasonally adjusted.
[2] Working age is between 16 and 64 for men, and between 16 and 59 for women. Pensionable age is 65 for men and 60 for women.
[3] Sample size too small for reliable estimate.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey Local Area Datasets.

Table 2: Annual average number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance (JSA), by age and gender, areas as shown, 1997 to 2004

Male claimants

Age group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency							
Under 18	11	13	11	14	11	18	15
18 years old	29	28	40	27	23	29	28
19 years old	27	40	27	35	21	22	19
20 to 24	122	125	123	95	96	102	89
25 to 29	117	106	102	84	73	69	67
30 to 34	101	88	98	81	69	67	56
35 to 39	71	74	86	74	77	67	64
40 to 44	70	60	70	56	47	51	43
45 to 49	70	59	61	62	56	48	39
50 to 54	68	67	67	61	45	45	42
55 and over	53	55	63	51	51	53	55
Total	739	715	748	640	569	571	517
Scottish Borders unitary authority							
Under 18	24	25	29	29	27	32	24
18 years old	52	67	62	53	57	51	44
19 years old	48	67	56	54	44	46	31
20 to 24	236	234	225	176	173	174	148
25 to 29	197	195	192	158	139	123	101
30 to 34	181	187	200	156	132	120	96
35 to 39	132	137	156	139	133	115	94
40 to 44	114	125	139	98	95	96	86
45 to 49	114	114	133	122	96	85	70
50 to 54	106	118	130	119	106	89	73
55 and over	98	124	130	119	107	111	104
Total	1,302	1,393	1,452	1,223	1,109	1,042	871

Table 2: Annual average number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance (JSA), by age and gender, areas as shown, 1997 to 2004

Male claimants

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Scotland							
Under 18	1,953	1,936	1,976	1,841	1,607	1,496	1,536
18 years old	4,323	4,120	4,116	3,612	3,412	3,155	3,257
19 years old	4,237	4,130	3,627	3,291	3,074	2,956	2,817
20 to 24	21,448	18,085	15,258	13,307	12,955	12,781	12,728
25 to 29	20,239	17,327	15,940	13,669	12,201	11,269	10,667
30 to 34	16,786	14,605	14,301	12,743	11,475	10,803	10,183
35 to 39	13,257	11,895	11,835	10,834	9,875	9,421	9,062
40 to 44	10,791	9,679	9,684	9,008	8,160	7,932	7,616
45 to 49	10,017	8,736	8,629	7,839	6,830	6,614	6,414
50 to 54	9,759	8,848	8,663	7,940	6,895	6,676	6,489
55 and over	9,887	8,633	8,331	7,514	6,588	6,928	7,106
Total	122,697	107,994	102,360	91,598	83,072	80,029	77,875

Female claimants

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency							
Under 18	8	10	12	5	6	12	10
18 years old	15	18	18	16	13	13	14
19 years old	15	13	16	10	9	9	10
20 to 24	46	41	43	31	31	33	29
25 to 29	32	32	27	22	20	13	13
30 to 34	19	18	23	19	13	18	13
35 to 39	14	18	17	16	14	15	16
40 to 44	22	21	21	14	11	15	15
45 to 49	29	26	23	19	16	14	15
50 to 54	20	22	21	20	18	22	20
55 and over	22	16	19	19	17	12	11
Total	242	235	240	191	168	176	166
Scottish Borders unitary authority							
Under 18	20	24	23	14	15	18	18
18 years old	26	31	35	35	26	32	25
19 years old	23	24	27	23	26	26	22
20 to 24	89	84	85	57	58	71	60
25 to 29	54	57	54	44	35	28	26
30 to 34	35	34	33	36	29	28	25
35 to 39	32	36	34	34	27	24	26
40 to 44	40	52	44	33	28	30	27
45 to 49	51	57	49	41	32	29	32
50 to 54	37	53	47	44	44	41	34
55 and over	36	44	43	43	33	33	35
Total	443	496	474	404	353	360	330
Scotland							
Under 18	1,387	1,351	1,417	1,289	1,192	1,192	1,247
18 years old	2,227	2,165	2,161	1,983	1,897	1,836	1,939
19 years old	1,939	1,832	1,705	1,551	1,448	1,458	1,415
20 to 24	6,826	5,807	4,984	4,347	4,169	4,207	4,248
25 to 29	4,680	3,969	3,588	3,044	2,653	2,413	2,330
30 to 34	3,301	3,010	2,786	2,475	2,155	2,102	2,040
35 to 39	2,794	2,659	2,573	2,377	2,101	2,037	2,084
40 to 44	2,998	2,970	2,896	2,574	2,240	2,172	2,273
45 to 49	3,267	3,071	2,850	2,599	2,257	2,115	2,105
50 to 54	3,337	3,183	2,946	2,631	2,286	2,117	2,083
55 and over	2,944	2,706	2,525	2,243	1,858	1,914	1,925
Total	35,700	32,723	30,431	27,113	24,256	23,563	23,689

All claimants

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency							
Under 18	19	22	22	20	16	30	25
18 years old	44	46	58	43	36	42	41
19 years old	41	53	43	46	31	32	29
20 to 24	167	166	166	127	127	135	119
25 to 29	149	138	129	106	93	82	80
30 to 34	120	106	121	100	81	84	69
35 to 39	85	92	103	90	91	82	80

All claimants

Age group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
40 to 44	92	81	91	70	58	66	58
45 to 49	100	85	83	80	72	62	53
50 to 54	89	88	88	81	63	66	62
55 and over	74	71	81	70	67	65	66
Total	980	948	985	833	735	746	682
Scottish Borders unitary authority							
Under 18	43	48	53	43	42	50	42
18 years old	78	98	97	87	83	83	69
19 years old	71	91	82	77	71	71	53
20 to 24	325	317	311	233	231	245	208
25 to 29	251	253	246	202	174	151	127
30 to 34	216	220	233	192	161	147	120
35 to 39	164	173	190	173	160	139	120
40 to 44	154	178	183	131	123	126	113
45 to 49	164	170	181	163	128	114	102
50 to 54	143	171	177	164	150	130	107
55 and over	134	168	174	162	140	143	139
Total	1,743	1,887	1,927	1,627	1,463	1,399	1,200
Scotland							
Under 18	3,341	3,286	3,392	3,129	2,799	2,688	2,783
18 years old	6,550	6,285	6,277	5,595	5,309	4,992	5,196
19 years old	6,176	5,962	5,332	4,842	4,522	4,414	4,233
20 to 24	28,274	23,892	20,242	17,654	17,124	16,988	16,976
25 to 29	24,919	21,296	19,528	16,714	14,854	13,682	12,997
30 to 34	20,087	17,614	17,088	15,218	13,630	12,903	12,224
35 to 39	16,051	14,554	14,408	13,210	11,976	11,458	11,145
40 to 44	13,789	12,649	12,581	11,583	10,400	10,104	9,889
45 to 49	13,284	11,807	11,479	10,438	9,087	8,730	8,519
50 to 54	13,096	12,031	11,609	10,571	9,181	8,793	8,572
55 and over	12,831	11,338	10,855	9,756	8,445	8,842	9,031
Total	158,398	140,714	132,791	118,710	107,327	103,594	101,565

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new jobs have been created in *(a)* Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders and *(c)* Scotland in each year since 1997. [182744]

Ruth Kelly *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Michael Moore, dated 12 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on jobs created in *(a)* Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, *(b)* the Scottish Borders and *(c)* Scotland in each year since 1997.1 am replying in his absence. (182744)

While statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly, statistics from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) provide the number of jobs in December of each year.

The attached table shows the information requested, relating to employee jobs in Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Parliamentary Constituency, the Scottish Borders Unitary Authority and Scotland from 1997 to 2002, the latest available year for which figures are available.

It is important to note that the ABI is primarily designed to give reliable estimates of job levels, rather than year-to-year changes. Particularly at Parliamentary Constituency level changes between successive years are likely to show considerable volatility. ABI data for 2002 is provisional, and subject to later revision.

The majority of the increase in jobs in Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale and in the Scottish Borders seen between 1998 and 1999, and also between 2000 and 2001, occurred in the construction sector and the public administration, education and health sector.

Employees[1] by workplace

	Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale Parliamentary Constituency		*Scottish borders unitary authority*		*Scotland*	
	Level[2]	*Annual change*	*Level*	*Annual change*	*Level*	*Annual change*
1997	19,400	—	39,100	—	2,076,300	—
1998	18,900	-500	38,500	-700	2,161,900	85,600
1999	20,300	1,400	42,900	4,400	2,167,000	5,100
2000	19,500	-700	41,900	-1,000	2,234,300	67,300
2001	19,000	-500	40,900	-1,100	2,299,800	65,500
2002	21,500	2,500	42,000	1,200	2,277,900	-21,900

[1] Employee jobs only, not self-employed jobs
[2] ABI data for Parliamentary Constituencies excludes jobs in Standard Industrial Classification (SIC2003) Sector 0100: Agriculture
Source:
1997; Annual Employment Survey, rescaled 2002; Annual Business Inquiry (ABI)

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many British nationals he estimates have left the UK each year since 1992 for permanent employment in another EU member state, broken down by country. [182745]

Ruth Kelly *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from John Pullinger to Mr. Michael Moore, dated 12 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reply to your question regarding estimates for the number of British nationals who have left the UK for permanent employment in another European Union (EU) member state since 1992. I am replying in his absence. (182745)

Estimates of the number of British nationals migrating to another EU member state for work-related reasons are shown in the attached table. These data are drawn from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), the principal data source for measuring international migration to and from the UK.

The following should be noted:

'British nationals' have been interpreted as those travelling with a British passport.

An international migrant is defined as someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year.

The IPS measures people's intentions at the time of arrival or departure. These intentions may or may not be realised.

The IPS asks the respondent their main reason for travel. The data includes those who said that their main reason for travel was business or work (where they had a definite job to go to), and that they intended to remain abroad for a period of at least a year. The estimates do not include people travelling for holiday work, business meetings or short- term contracts; they also do not include those stating they are travelling abroad to look for work. The IPS does not record whether a person is taking up permanent employment abroad.

The estimates do not include migration from the UK to the Irish Republic. The definition of the EU used for all years is that prior to expansion on the 1st May 2004 excluding the Irish Republic, i.e. the destination countries covered are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

The attached table shows estimates for the above countries as a group for successive two-year periods from 1991–2 through to 2001–2. The IPS samples approximately 0.2 per cent. of all travellers using the principal air, sea and Channel Tunnel routes from the UK. This sample size is not large enough to allow reliable estimates to be made of the number of British nationals emigrating for work-related reasons by either destination country or by single year.

International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey:

British Citizens migrating to the EU (excluding the Irish Republic) for work related reasons, United Kingdom

	Thousands
1991–92	26.8
1993–94	26.1
1995–96	40.0
1997–98	23.9
1999–2000	29.5
2001–02	35.3

Note:

A small weighting adjustment has been applied to IPS data for 1991 to 1998. This reflects the estimated effect of applying the weighting improvements made to IPS data from 1999 onwards.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182944]

Ruth Kelly: Details of individual Departments' non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are set out in the annual Cabinet Office publication, "Public Bodies", copies of which are available in the Library. As the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office set out in his answer of 25 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1537W, a new public bodies database will be launched on the internet later this year. This will contain statistics as at 31 March 2004 which can then be compared with figures in the previous annual "Public Bodies" publications.

The Treasury currently has two advisory NDPBs: the Public Services Productivity Panel, which was set up in 1998 for an initial two year period and then renewed in 2002, and the Statistics Commission, which was formed in 2000.

Since 1997, the Treasury has had two other non-departmental public bodies. The Policyholders Protection Board, an Executive NDPB, was formed as part of the Policyholders Protection Act 1975 and the board's functions were transferred to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, which was created under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) and is independent from Government.

The Financial Services Tribunal, a Tribunal NDPB, was established in 1987 and its functions commenced in April 1988. These functions have been repealed under the FSMA.

Smuggling

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the loss of duty through the smuggling of *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol in each of the last three years. [183598]

John Healey: Customs' estimates of the revenue loss due to fraud and smuggling of tobacco in 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03 and of alcohol in 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2001–02 are published in HM Customs and Excise's Annual Report, December 2003, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. Estimates for later dates are not available.

Tax Credits (Wansdyke)

Dan Norris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many families in Wansdyke constituency are eligible for *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit; and what proportion of those eligible have taken each tax credit; [182497]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total value of the *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit to families in Wansdyke in each of the next three years. [182498]

Dawn Primarolo: The available estimates of the number of in-work families receiving these tax credits are shown in "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. January 2004. Geographical Analyses". This can be found on the Inland Revenue website: www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/

stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm The estimates are derived from a sample of awards and are subject to sampling uncertainty.

No estimates are available of the number of families eligible for tax credits in Wansdyke, nor of the value of tax credits that will be received by families in Wansdyke in the future.

Tax Credits (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Warrington, North are in receipt of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit. [182771]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Burton (Mrs. Dean) on 15 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 98W.

World Debt

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made by G7 Finance Ministers in tackling world debt; and if he will make a statement. [183176]

John Healey: After extensive calls from the UK, the G8 reiterated their commitment towards the HIPC initiative at Sea Island, Georgia in June 2004, supported the extension of the initiative by another two years, and committed to financing the initiative in full—including topping up.

We are now in discussions with our G7 colleagues to discuss further measures to support debt sustainability in the poorest countries, including options for further assistance in the form of debt relief and the use of grants.

HEALTH

School Fruit (Northampton, North)

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in Northampton, North receive free fruit at school. [182843]

Dr. Ladyman: The school fruit and vegetable scheme provides a free piece of fruit every day to 25,103 children in local education authority maintained schools in Northampton with children aged four to six.

Adult Protection

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health over what period of time the study on the impact of partnerships and regulation in adult protection will take place; and when the results will be published. [182634]

Dr. Ladyman: The study, The impact of partnerships and regulation in adult protection, which will examine referrals to local councils' adult protection services, commenced in October 2003 and will conclude in September 2006.

Interim reports will be prepared as the study progresses with a final report at the conclusion of the study.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local adult protection co-ordinators are in place. [182638]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government does not collect information on the number of local councils who have an adult protection co-ordinator in post.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local councils have established an adult protection committee. [182641]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government does not collect information on which particular local councils have established multi-agency management committees as set out in "No Secrets". However, a review of the implementation of "No Secrets", carried out by the Centre for Policy on Ageing and published in June 2002, shows that 70 per cent. of councils have set up such committees.

Agenda for Change

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency plans have been put in place by his Department to deal with delays in rolling out Agenda for Change job profiles that were not fully piloted in early implementer sites. [182403]

Mr. Hutton: Agenda for Change job profiles have been devised to help assimilate staff in typical national health service jobs to the new pay system, without the need for full job evaluation. Where job profiles are not available, or are found to be of limited use, employers have the option to develop a locally job evaluated post. Testing of job profiles in early implementer sites is helping to ensure the profiles available for national roll-out are as useful as possible, but it was always intended that the national profiles would extend and evolve over time and therefore no additional contingency planning is necessary.

Botox

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ban the use of *(a)* botox, *(b)* dysport and *(c)* related products for cosmetic purposes; and if he will make a statement. [181805]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Botox and Dysport are licensed as 'Prescription Only Medicines' (POMs) and therefore their use should be supervised by an appropriate medical practitioner. They are not licensed for cosmetic use. A doctor may prescribe outside the terms of a product licence, on his or her own responsibility, when it is considered to be in the best interests of a particular patient.

As POMs, these products may not be promoted directly to the public and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has taken action to ensure that the ban on advertising POMs to the public is upheld. Advice on advertising and prescribing of Botox for cosmetic use has been issued by the Chief Medical Officer.

Dental Health (Children)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the mean number of decayed, filled

and missing teeth for five-year old children in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each primary care trust for the latest year for which figures are available; [182406]

(2) what percentage of five-year-old children had no caries *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each strategic health authority in the latest year for which figures are available. [182433]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the 2003 edition of "Community Dental Health", the journal of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry, which has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the internet at http://www.dundee.ac.uk/dhsru/bascd/.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department will take to improve the awareness of dental hygiene for young people. [182444]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* We have funded the "Brushing for Life" national dental health education initiative with £1 million over three years. Under the scheme, health visitors help parents and carers get their children into habit of brushing their teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste. They give out packs containing a toothbrush, toothpaste and a leaflet on oral hygiene at the child health development checks which takes place at eight months, 18 months and three years. The scheme covers the 29 areas, mainly in the North of England and London, with highest levels of tooth decay and also all "Sure Start" areas in which drinking water is not fluoridated.

Primary care trusts will be seeking to reinforce this good practice on oral hygiene in the health promotion activities they undertake in schools and with young people generally.

Departmental Estate

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the total floor space area of buildings owned or leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies for each year since 1997. [181728]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total floor space owned or leased by the Department and its agencies in each year since 1997 is shown in the table.

	Department		*Agency*		*Total*		
	Owned	*Leased*	*Owned*	*Leased*	*Owned*	*Leased*	*Overall total*
1997	35,485	83,000	0	11,815	35,485	94,815	130,300
1998	35,485	83,000	0	15,971	35,485	98,971	134,456
1999	35,485	85,452	0	15,971	35,485	101,423	136,908
2000	35,485	84,740	1,527	18,146	37,012	102,886	139,898
2001	33,016	82,641	1,527	18,569	34,543	101,210	135,753
2002	33,016	85,165	1,527	19,595	34,543	104,760	139,303
2003	26,062	78,862	1,527	20,346	27,589	99,208	126,797
2004	26,062	74,960	1,527	19,667	27,589	94,627	122,216

Note:

This answer does not include information about the national health service or non- departmental public bodies.

Departmental Secondments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department and its agencies were seconded from the *(a)* private and *(b)* academic sector in each of the last three years. [174825]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested in shown in the table.

	Private sector	*Academic sector*
2003–04	12	13
2002–03	14	11
2001–02	16	9

The year is from 1 April to 31 March.

If a period of secondment covers two or more financial years, that secondment is counted in all the financial years during which it occurs. This is in line with the annual statistical exercise carried out by the Cabinet Office interchange unit.

Secondments are part of the interchange initiative, which promotes the exchange of people and good practice between the civil service and other organisations. Before an interchange can occur, all parties must be satisfied that no conflict of interest arises. Secondment refers to all continuous interchange activity of three months or more.

Digital Hearing Aids

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time is for a deaf patient to receive a digital hearing aid in *(a)* Dorset, *(b)* West Sussex and *(c)* England; [178422]

(2) what the average waiting time was for a digital hearing aid in England in each of the last seven years; [178423]

(3) what impact the Modernising Hearing Aids programme has had on average waiting list time for digital hearing aids in England; [178424]

(4) what the average period of time from referral of a patient in need of a digital hearing aid to fitting the aid was in *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* each of the last seven years in England. [178426]

Dr. Ladyman: Information on waiting times for fitting hearing aids is not collected locally or centrally. Waiting times in audiology, including those for digital hearing aids, are likely to have increased in some areas because of the modernising hearing aid services (MHAS) project. The Modernisation Agency's action on audiology team is working to help national health service organisations improve their own procedures locally in order to reduce waiting times. Information on national average waiting times for audiology is not available.

MHAS has improved the quality of life of those people who have received digital hearing aids. It has modernised services to make sure that deaf people receive the most advanced hearing aids available, rather than rely on outdated technology from the 1970s.

Disabled People

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements he has in place for monitoring statistics concerning the *(a)* numbers and *(b)* needs of disabled people; and if he will make a statement; [182882]

(2) what assessment he has made of the efficacy and efficiency of services provided by his Department to disabled people; and if he will make a statement; [183252]

(3) what arrangements he has in place for monitoring statistics concerning the supply of services by his Department to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [183254]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government is committed to improving the position of disabled people in society and believes that public bodies should take the lead in promoting equal opportunities. That is why the draft Disability Discrimination Bill extends the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) to the functions of public bodies and introduces a duty on public bodies to promote equality for disabled people.

Accordingly, the Department keeps the efficacy and efficiency of services provided to disabled people under constant review. The Department does not directly provide services for disabled people. Health service provision is the responsibility of the national health service; its quality and effectiveness of service is monitored by the Healthcare Commission. Social service provision is provided by local authorities, with their performance assessed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

Themed inspections are carried out by the CSCI (formerly the Social Services Inspectorate), such as a series of inspection reports of services for people with learning disabilities produced in 2003. It also carries out more general inspections, such as on adult services, which also cover disability. The Healthcare Commission has produced a number of reports covering disability and mental health. It will be collecting data on disability status in future national patient surveys; this will enable the analysis of data on patient satisfaction levels by disability status and will further enhance our ability to compare variations in patient experience of different groups in the population.

The Department is committed to building equality into its work and will be taking forward a project to improve the evidence base on equality to support improved policy making.

The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for monitoring statistics concerning the number of disabled people and it currently estimates that there are around 10 million adults in Great Britain who are covered by the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) (source, FRS 2002/3).

The Department does not collect data on numbers of disabled people, but on users of social services. The referrals, assessments and packages of care (RAP) return collects annual information on the number of adults aged 18 and over receiving a community care assessment and the outcome of the assessment by client group. It also collects information on the number of adults receiving social services during the year and the type of services they receive. The client groups include people with physical and/or sensory disabilities, people with learning disabilities and those with mental health needs.

In 2002–03, 1.7 million adults aged 18 and over received social services in England, of whom 1.4 million received community based services. Community based services include day care, meals, direct payments, equipment and transport, as well as home care.

Drug Trials

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to establish a public registry for all clinical trials of pharmaceutical drugs. [181837]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. Pharmaceutical companies are required by law to submit all research data to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in support of any application for a marketing authorisation for a medicinal product. These data are submitted to the MHRA in confidence.

The Department encourages the pharmaceutical industry to make the findings of research publicly available. The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry does so on behalf of the industry as a whole in the form of a clinical trials database. The database, at www.cmrinteract.com/clintrial, is a voluntary register containing details of clinical trials relating to newly licensed medicines and of trials to be conducted, after licensing approval, among national health service patients.

Elder Abuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been given to the helpline run by Action on Elder Abuse in each year since its launch. [182635]

Dr. Ladyman: The funding provided by the Department to Action on Elder Abuse in support of its helpline is as follows:

£

	Funding
1997–98	30,000
1998–99	63,000
1999–2000	65,000

This recommenced in 2004–05 when the Department provided Action on Elder Abuse with core funding of £104,000, part of which is to ensure that the helpline continues to offer information, advice, support and advocacy to older people, carers, members of the public and practitioners. It is planned to continue this core funding for 2005–06 and 2006–07.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses have undertaken post-registration specialist training in elder abuse in each of the past five years. [182640]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the Government is investing significantly in training provision in the

national health service. From 2003–04 to 2005–06 an extra £96 million is being made available to ensure that all health professionals, including nurses, have the right knowledge and skills, such as those required for elder care, to meet the changing and specific healthcare needs of all patients. The Department is working with work force development confederations and strategic health authorities to ensure that optimum use is gained from this investment and good practice is disseminated.

For nurses and midwives, it is for local employers to determine their employers training needs linked to local service plans. Access to training is affected by whether funding is available, staff can be released, training interventions are appropriate, flexible and convenient and mentors/assessors are available. It would not be practical for the centre to be prescriptive on this.

Environmental Sustainability

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* sustainability and environmental impact of its private finance initiative (PFI) projects and *(b)* effectiveness of the PFI process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects; [181651]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible create the minimum of environmental damage; [181656]

(3) what plans he has to make private finance initiative contracts more accountable and transparent in terms of environmental sustainability. [181724]

Mr. Hutton: The NHS environmental assessment tool kit (NEAT) is the national health service's response to the Government's objective of a sustainable construction programme.

All capital development schemes, whether private finance initiative (PFI) or publicly funded, must submit a NEAT as part of their full business case (FBC). The business case must demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NEAT score rating of "excellent" for a new build or "very good" for a refurbishment scheme.

By integrating the design, build and operational aspects into a single financial package, PFI helps to encourage greater efficiency, including energy efficiency, over the whole life of the contract.

In the interests of accountability and transparency, all full business cases are published.

Health Service (Shrewsbury)

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who is responsible in the relevant Strategic Health Authority for making the decision on the installation of the new linear accelerator at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital; [182643]

(2) what the reasons are for installing a new linear accelerator at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital; [182644]

(3) how much a new *(a)* linear accelerator and *(b)* bunker would cost to purchase and install at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital; [182645]

(4) if he will make a statement on the reasons for the delay in processing the business case for a new linear accelerator at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. [182646]

Dr. Ladyman: Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that its capital review group (CRG) is responsible for the initial assessment of all full business cases presented to the SHA. If appropriate, the CRG will present the business case to the SHA executive board for formal approval. Final sign off is by the chief executive of the SHA, as the nominated representative of the executive board.

Linear accelerators are used in external beam radiotherapy; one of the principal weapons used to combat cancer. Demand for radiotherapy in Shropshire continues to rise. Without a replacement linear accelerator, the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital will not be able to meet the demands for radiotherapy. Radiotherapy is a key element in the treatment of cancer.

The new linear accelerator will be a replacement for the current SL75/5 linear accelerator. Linear accelerators have a recognised 10 year life span. The SL75/5 linear accelerator at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital was installed in 1995 and is therefore due for replacement in 2005.

Breaks in radiotherapy are to be avoided and can be detrimental to clinical outcome. The replacement will also ensure that continuity of clinical service can be maintained at all times with the existing linear accelerator.

The cost of a linear accelerator is between £750,000 to £1.25 million, depending on machine specification and options required.

The SHA reports that the cost of a bunker on the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site has currently been estimated at £1,012,000.

The SHA also reports that the business case for the new linear accelerator is being appropriately processed and has not experienced any significant delay.

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current deficit is of the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust. [182648]

Dr. Ladyman: Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority reports that Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals national health service Trust declared a deficit of £783,000 in its draft accounts at its trust board meeting in June 2004.

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on progress towards building a new cancer centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. [182649]

Dr. Ladyman: Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority reports that the new cancer centre is expected to cost about £4 million. The scheme will be funded through public appeal which is expected to take around four years to complete. On-going revenue costs will be met by local primary care trusts. A site has been identified and draft plans are being prepared.

Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects *(a)* the analysis of results of the consultation and *(b)* resulting proposals for the statutory regulation of herbal medicine and acupuncture practitioners to be published. [182340]

Mr. Hutton: On 2 March 2004, we published proposals for the statutory regulation of herbal medicine and acupuncture practitioners. The consultation period closed on 7 June and the Department is currently analysing the responses received. The Department will publish an analysis of the responses to the consultation in the autumn. We plan to publish draft legislation for further consultation in 2005.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital beds were available in the NHS in *(a)* 1979 and *(b)* 1997. [182410]

Mr. Hutton: The table shows data on the average number of national health service available hospital beds, including both psychiatric and non-psychiatric hospitals.

Average daily number of NHS available hospital beds

Thousand

Financial year	*1979*	*1997–98*
England [1]	364	194
Wales [1]	24	15
Scotland [2]	58	37
Northern Ireland [3]	17	9
U.K.	463	255

[1] 1979: calendar year.
[2] 1979: as at 30 September.
[3] 1979: as at 31 December.
Source:
Annual Abstract of Statistics.

Kidderminster Treatment Centre

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what direct funding his Department is providing for the Kidderminster Treatment Centre in addition to funding through primary care trusts. [182526]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department and West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority have invested £18.5 million of capital in the Kidderminster Treatment Centre.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will decide which patients should be treated at the Kidderminster Treatment Centre. [182527]

Dr. Ladyman: West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority reports that up to 31 March 2005, a number of patients will be redirected to the independent sector treatment centre from the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. After that date the treatment centre will receive new general practitioner referrals. The process will be managed by the three primary care trusts in Worcestershire.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of likely levels of demand for elective surgery at the Kidderminster Treatment Centre *(a)* in December, *(b)* at Easter and *(c)* during the main summer holiday period. [182528]

Dr. Ladyman: This is a matter for the local health community. West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority reports that the assessment of demand for elective surgery is an ongoing rather than specific period process. The Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, and the three primary care trusts in Worcestershire are now working together on a joint commissioning basis. They are using a waiting list modelling system to ensure that capacity matches demand and that national targets for waiting times are met.

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what flexibility there will be within the contract for the Kidderminster Treatment Centre to amend the numbers of operations performed between different types of operation. [182529]

Dr. Ladyman: Limited substitution of cases, based on patient suitability rather than the complexity of the case, is being built into the contract.

Means-Tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the means-tested benefits available through his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182592]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The income related benefits available through this Department in 1997, all still available in 2004, are help with health costs (including prescriptions, dental treatment, sight tests, glasses or contact lenses, wigs or fabric supports from a hospital and travel to hospital for national health service treatment) and the welfare food scheme, providing free milk and vitamins.

Agency Nurses

Mr. Hurst: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of nurses working in the national health service were supplied on contract by private agencies in each year from 1990 to 2003. [173638]

Mr. Hutton: Separate information is not collected centrally on expenditure on agency staff. Information is collected on expenditure on non-national health service staff for primary care trusts, NHS trusts and strategic health authorities. These figures include all agency staff and any other staff not directly employed by these bodies. The figures for non-NHS nurses, midwives and health visitors are shown in the table.

	Expenditure on non-NHS nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff as a percentage of expenditure on NHS nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff
1990–91	2.24
1991–92	1.76
1992–93	1.64
1993–94	1.70
1994–95	2.10
1995–96	2.61

	Expenditure on non-NHS nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff as a percentage of expenditure on NHS nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff
1996–97	2.95
1997–98	3.26
1998–99	3.90
1999–2000	4.70
2000–01	5.22
2001–02	5.91
2002–03	5.76

Sources:

1. Annual financial returns of district and regional health authorities and the special health authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals, 1990–91 to 1995–96.
2. Annual financial returns of health authorities, 1996–97 to 2001–02.
3. Annual financial returns of strategic health authorities, 2002–03.
4. Annual financial returns of NHS trusts, 1991–92 to 2002–03.
5. Annual financial returns of primary care trusts, 2000–01 to 2002–03.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181871]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Visits

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Ministers from his Department have visited health services and medical care facilities in Taiwan in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [177493]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My noble Friend, the Lord Filkin, travelled to Taiwan in October 2001 in a ministerial capacity for the Department and visited a hospital as part of his programme.

Myasthenia Gravis

Syd Rapson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on how the Government support those diagnosed with myasthenia gravis. [182767]

Dr. Ladyman: Myasthenia gravis is a neurological condition characterised by fluctuating levels of muscle weakness. There is no cure, but treatment includes medication, surgery and palliation.

The national service framework for long term conditions will focus on improving services for people with neurological conditions. While the framework will not cover myasthenia gravis specifically, it will recommend improvements in standards, care and support that will benefit everyone with a neurological condition.

We are committed to publishing the framework as soon as possible.

NHS Dentistry

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency admissions for dental treatment there were in the NHS for each region in each year since 1997. [181193]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information available for emergency admissions into hospital for dental treatment is shown in the table for each strategic health authority area from 1997–98 to 2002–03.

National health service: number of emergency hospital admissions for dental treatment in England by strategic health authority

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*
England	4,047	4,321	4,369
Strategic health authority			
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	114	156	129
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	46	74	86
Essex	214	107	122
North west London	58	281	122
North central London	58	44	81
North east London	65	67	128
South east London	152	129	121
South west London	50	54	84
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	29	98	149
County Durham and Tees Valley	—	—	49
North and east Yorkshire and north Lincolnshire	46	44	121
West Yorkshire	48	105	190
Cumbria and Lancashire	134	147	199
Greater Manchester	54	54	84
Cheshire and Merseyside	248	283	380
Thames Valley	68	122	119
Hampshire and Isle Of Wight	128	109	151
Kent and Medway	73	49	138
Surrey and Sussex	96	147	154
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	93	85	105
South West Peninsula	191	232	245
Dorset and Somerset	89	84	89
South Yorkshire	42	34	99
Trent	94	158	159
Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland	32	52	184
Shropshire and Staffordshire	90	58	79
Birmingham and the Black Country	118	140	157
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	56	67	54
Unclassified region	1,561	1,341	591

	2000–01	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
England	4,429	4,188	4,715
Strategic Health Authority			
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	179	227	309
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	169	71	79
Essex	115	98	103
North west London	53	44	83
North central London	78	79	74
North east London	145	124	206
South east London	153	185	225
South west London	105	76	93
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	164	176	158
County Durham and Tees Valley	51	60	125
North and east Yorkshire and north Lincolnshire	144	140	200
West Yorkshire	207	164	162
Cumbria and Lancashire	194	270	292
Greater Manchester	76	202	266
Cheshire and Merseyside	328	325	400
Thames Valley	98	89	114
Hampshire and Isle Of Wight	147	154	140
Kent and Medway	168	147	119
Surrey and Sussex	153	133	215
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	137	100	139
South West Peninsula	246	243	266
Dorset and Somerset	86	76	98

	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
South Yorkshire	76	97	153
Trent	179	197	230
Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland	154	146	128
Shropshire and Staffordshire	78	58	88
Birmingham and the Black Country	167	188	181
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	63	76	69
Unclassified region	516	243	—

Notes:
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03, which are not yet adjusted for shortfall.
3. The operations count of episode represent a count of finished admission episodes where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002–03) operation fields in a Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record.
4. Strategic health authority (SHA) data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002–03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on SHA of treatment is poor in 1997–98 and 1998–99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics Department of Health

NHS Managerial Salaries

Mr. Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of NHS *(a)* managers and *(b)* senior managers has been in each year since 1997. [182033]

Mr. Hutton: It is not possible to separate earnings of managers and senior managers. Robust data on the pay of managers and senior managers was first collected in 2002. For 2002, the average earnings of managers and senior managers was estimated to be £35,700. Of this, £34,900 was made up of basic salary. No data is available for 2003 as the national health service staff earnings survey only proceeds every two years, but estimates put the figures at £36,900 and £36,000 respectively.

NHS Staff Suspensions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the national health service of suspensions of medical and dental staff for the latest quarter for which figures are available. [182405]

Mr. Hutton: Information is collected about hospital and community medical and dental staff suspended for more than six months, including information about approximate costs. The reported cumulative approximate cost of the 21 doctors and dentists currently suspended for more than six months is £2.1 million. This figure includes some legal and locum fees, as well as salary costs.

NHS Temporary Staff

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the risk of fraud in nurse banks and medical locum agencies; and if he will make a statement. [182657]

Mr. Hutton: No such assessment has been made but the National Health Service counter fraud and security management service is currently reviewing staff bank systems with local counter fraud specialists.

NHS Work Force Definitions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to expand the NHS workforce described as consultant from non-medically or dentally qualified practitioners; [R] [180656]

(2) what measures he will take to ensure that patients are not misled by the term consultant into believing that they are seeing a doctor or dentist, in the context of non-medically or non-dentally qualified practitioners in the NHS; [R] [180657]

(3) what assessment has been made of the public's understanding of the term consultant in the context of practitioners they have seen in the NHS. [R] [180671]

Mr. Hutton: Appointments to nurse, midwife, health visitor, allied health professions, or healthcare scientist consultant posts are the responsibility of the potential national health service employers, who should take account of any relevant guidance. The Department does not intend to inhibit such appointments. Nor is it aware of any evidence that patients are misled by the use of the term consultant in relation to NHS staff who are not doctors or dentists, although no research has been commissioned by the Department into the public's understanding of this term.

Obesity-related Sleep Apnoea

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1281–2W, on obesity-related sleep apnoea, if he will estimate the number of paediatric finished consultant episodes for obesity-related sleep apnoea in each year since 1997. [182426]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The table shows information on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for sleep related apnoea, for children under 16 from the (financial) year 1996–97 onwards.

Obesity-related sleep apnoea (1C 10 primary diagnosis G47.3 (sleep apnoea) with secondary mention E66 (obesity) for children under 16, FCEs, national health service hospitals in England, 1996–97 to 2002–03

Financial year	FCEs
1996–97	5
1997–98	3
1998–99	17
1999–2000	15
2000–01	29
2001–02	24
2002–03	48

Notes:
1. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002–03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
2. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. Figures are grossed for coverage, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03 which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, Department of Health.

Paramedics

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department plans to increase the recruitment of paramedics. [177890]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 14 June 2004]:* The number of paramedics employed in the national health service is increasing. As at September 2003, there were 7,094 paramedics employed in the NHS, an increase of 730 or 11 per cent., since 1997. The March 2003 national vacancy rate for ambulance staff was 0.7 per cent., indicating that local and national recruitment and retention initiatives are working. These include improving pay and conditions, encouraging the NHS to become a better, more flexible and diverse employer, increasing training, investing in child care and continuing professional development and running national and local recruitment campaigns. NHS Careers, in association with the Ambulance Service Association, has published a new brochure specifically to showcase careers in the ambulance services. Copies are available in the Library.

In addition to the traditional paramedic training routes for ambulance technicians, the development of degree courses in paramedic science and foundation degrees with flexible entry and exit points, combined with career development in supervisory skills, team leadership and management, will help to encourage further new entrants into the profession. Other developments within ambulance services, such as expanding the role of paramedics to provide more out of hospital care, thus enabling faster treatment, and the development of new ways of working such as the first responder schemes, will continue to ensure there are attractive and rewarding careers for all ambulance staff, including paramedics.

Patient Episodes

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient episodes have been carried out by the English NHS on patients from Wales in each year since 1999, broken down by *(a)* medical specialism and *(b)* county borough of residence of patient. [182446]

Mr. Hutton: The numbers of finished in year admissions to national health service hospitals in England, for patients resident in Welsh local authority areas are given in table 1 for 1999–2002. The numbers of finished in-year admissions for the patients in table 1 are given by the main specialty of the consultant in table 2.

Table 1: Finished in year admissions to NHS hospitals in England for patients resident in Wales, by local authority of residence, 1999–2002

Local authority district of residence	*Finished in year admissions*			
	1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
All Welsh districts	41,509	41,313	40,519	39,070
Isle of Anglesey	1,147	1,203	1,251	1,218
Gwynedd	1,839	1,931	1,893	1,823
Conwy	1,692	1,778	1,712	1,669
Denbighshire	1,657	1,605	1,716	1,549
Flintshire	12,844	12,691	11,943	11,057
Wrexham	4,177	3,072	2,874	2,785
Powys	11,162	12,238	12,410	12,189
Ceredigion	423	419	431	412
Pembrokeshire	350	445	432	425
Carmarthenshire	446	495	474	516
Swansea	574	553	560	529
Neath Port Talbot	316	299	274	318
Bridgend	452	412	370	380
The Vale of Glamorgan	284	331	339	317
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	500	471	518	478
Merthyr Tydfil	166	113	134	138
Caerphilly	381	363	405	438
Blaenau Gwent	190	204	220	191
Torfaen	292	283	274	281
Monmouthshire	1,341	1,290	1,193	1,160
Newport	548	481	468	499
Cardiff	729	636	628	698

Table 2: Finished in year admissions to NHS hospitals in England for patients resident in Wales, by main specialty of consultant, 1999–2002

Main specialty of consultant	*Finished in year admissions*			
	1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
All specialties	41,509	41,313	40,519	39,070
Not known	172	605	10	13
General surgery	4,421	4,519	4,155	4,151
Urology	1,670	1,711	1,717	1,775
Trauma and Orthopaedics	5,007	4,956	5,332	5,557
Ear Nose and Throat (ENT)	1,090	1,252	1,284	1,226
Ophthalmology	2,055	2,356	2,237	1,889
Oral surgery	731	783	563	507
Restorative dentistry	2	—	6	5
Paediatric Dentistry	10	15	21	23
Neurosurgery	664	711	697	708
Plastic surgery	1,235	1,311	1,331	1,242
Cardiothoracic surgery	849	1,037	1,035	924
Paediatric Surgery	409	467	470	439
Accident and emergency (A and E)	160	151	193	136
Anaesthetics	270	298	285	253
Pain Management	58	48	53	74
General Medicine	5,338	5,280	4,728	4,486
Gastroenterology	806	682	966	1,042
Endocrinology	31	26	29	59
Haematology (clinical)	489	869	792	701
Clinical Pharmacology	24	2	6	13
Audiological medicine	—	—	1	—
Clinical genetics	2	—	—	—

Table 2: Finished in year admissions to NHS hospitals in England for patients resident in Wales, by main specialty of consultant, 1999–2002

Main specialty of consultant	*Finished in year admissions*			
	1999–2000	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Clinical immunology and Allergy	20	6	20	10
Rehabilitation	46	51	32	44
Palliative Medicine	—	1	1	1
Cardiology	2,157	2,524	2,907	2,857
Dermatology	61	86	58	70
Thoracic medicine	283	237	260	227
Infectious diseases	10	25	25	19
Nephrology	126	133	176	261
Medical oncology	578	627	545	400
Nuclear Medicine	4	1	1	5
Neurology	703	781	847	730
Rheumatology	520	440	447	439
Paediatrics	2,677	2,823	2,762	2,152
Paediatric neurology	54	56	57	45
Geriatric medicine	413	433	464	612
Medical Ophthalmology	2	—	2	2
Obstetrics for patients using a hospital bed	1,984	2,117	2,566	2,487
Gynaecology	1,735	1,885	1,547	1,543
Mid-wife episodes	2	2	6	11
General practice with maternity function	23	23	14	24
General practice other than maternity	91	87	67	88
Mental handicap	1	2	7	1
Mental illness	298	263	271	244
Child and adolescent psychiatry	10	6	8	7
Forensic Psychiatry	3	—	3	—
Psychotherapy	2	—	10	1
Old age psychiatry	9	10	9	10
Clinical oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	4,029	1,501	1,380	1,479
Radiology	89	76	69	66
Chemical Pathology	27	31	22	6
Haematology	58	7	24	6
Medical microbiology	—	—	1	—

'—' = zero

Notes:

1. Finished in-year admissions

A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Local authority of residence

This is the local authority district using the latest available boundaries for the data year, where postcodes were known.

3. Specialty

Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.

4. Grossing

Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Department of Health.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The pay system used in the Department is called pay plus and has been in full operation since August 2002. A copy of pay plus, which records the outcome of the most recent review, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Non-departmental public bodies are independent and as such are given maximum operational flexibility including the matter of pay systems. The Cabinet Office and Her Majesty's Treasury issue guidance to them on most operational matters.

As part of the Government's response to the equal opportunities (EOC) task force 'Just Pay' report the Department conducted a review and produced a report which includes the departmental equal pay action plan that was placed in the Library in June 2003.

Primary Care Trusts (Funding)

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the money that has been made available to primary care trusts (PCTs) to assist in the additional

costs of moving to payment by results for foundation trusts from 1 April has been allocated to each *(a)* PCT and *(b)* foundation trust; and by what formula these allocations were calculated. [182237]

Mr. Hutton: All of the additional funding made available to primary care trusts (PCTs), to support their contracting with Wave 1 national health service foundation trusts, was designed to compensate them for the price difference that they were to face in 2004–05 following the move to a national tariff. The funding was made available as non-recurring adjustments to PCT allocations.

No allocations were made directly to NHS foundation trusts. The overall impact on NHS foundation trusts income will be dependent on the activity they deliver, in line with the payment by results system.

The three elements to the adjustment were calculated as follows:

PCT purchasing power adjustment

This was calculated as the difference between local and national price for an agreed set of activity. Under the payment by results transition arrangements three quarters of this adjustment was returned by NHS foundation trusts to their host PCTs, whose allocation was adjusted, in turn, by the same amount.

PCT growth support

This was calculated as 1.2 per cent., of the value of the agreed baseline for each NHS foundation trust.

Specialist supplement

This was calculated based on the average impact that the move to a national tariff had those Wave 1 NHS Foundation Trusts who were classified as general hospitals. This funding was made available to the host PCTs of those Wave 1 NHS Foundation Trusts classified as teaching or providing specialist services.

Information on the allocation adjustment by PCT has been placed in the Library.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* sexually transmitted diseases, broken down by (i) disease, (ii) sex, *(b)* births and *(c)* abortions were reported in young people in Essex aged (A) under 12, (B) 12, (C) 13, (D) 14, (E) 15, (F) 16, (G) 17, (H) 18 and (I) 19 years in each of the last five years. [180317]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The number of diagnoses of syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, genital herpes (first attack) and genital warts (first attack) by sex and age group in the Essex Strategic Health Authority between 1998 and 2002 are shown in the, tables. The data refers to diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine clinics and is available for the age ranges shown.

Diagnoses of selected sexually transmitted infections[1] in those aged under 20 years of age: Essex Strategic Health Authority, 1998–2003

Condition	Age	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Females						
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	<15	0	1	0	0	0
	15	0	0	0	0	0
	16–19	0	1	0	0	0
Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	<15	4	3	3	4	3
	15	12	14	8	17	13
	16–19	168	246	281	337	376
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	<15	1	0	0	0	3
	15	2	0	1	2	0
	16–19	13	31	19	21	21
Anogenital herpes simplex (first attack)	<15	0	0	0	2	1
	15	3	2	2	1	0
	16–19	46	64	45	53	50
Anogenital warts (first attack)	<15	4	4	3	3	4
	15	6	8	5	5	8
	16–19	207	251	219	273	249
Males						
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	<15	0	0	0	0	0
	15	0	0	0	0	0
	16–19	0	0	0	0	0
Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	<15	0	0	0	0	0
	15	0	3	1	0	0
	16–19	37	52	56	76	80
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	<15	1	0	0	0	0
	15	0	1	1	0	0
	16–19	6	12	15	18	10
Anogenital herpes simplex (first attack)	<15	0	0	0	0	0
	15	0	0	0	0	0
	16–19	7	9	7	13	9
Anogenital warts (first attack)	<15	2	0	1	0	0
	15	1	0	1	0	1
	16–19	62	82	91	94	109

[1] Age data is only available for five conditions.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Data on the number of births to women aged under 20 in the Essex Strategic Health Authority, for the years 1999 to 2003 is shown in table 2.

2. Number of births by age of woman in Essex, 1999–2003

	Ages				
	11–15[1]	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*
1999	21	70	153	269	325
2000	24	68	143	235	317
2001	22	74	141	221	266
2002	14	56	132	246	313
2003	27	71	126	230	316

[1] Data for individual years is not provided for under 16s, in order to protect confidentiality.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Abortion data for 1998 to 2002, for women under 20 in Essex Strategic Health Authority is shown in table 3.

3. Number of abortions to women aged under 20 in Essex Strategic Health Authority, 1998–2002

	Ages						
	< 14	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*
1998	4	24	68	166	223	258	285
1999	3	22	74	143	224	269	281
2000	6	25	68	159	199	268	265
2001	6	18	66	154	218	270	290
2002	3	14	64	136	239	256	248

Source:
Department of Health

Skin Cancer

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of newly diagnosed skin cancer in England in each year since 1997 was for *(a)* 0 to 15-year-olds, *(b)* 15 to 30-year-olds, *(c)* 30 to 45-year-olds, *(d)* 45 to 50-year-olds, *(e)* 50 to 65-year-olds and *(f)* over 65-year-olds. [183049]

Ruth Kelly: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Paul Burstow, dated 12 July 2004:

The National Statistician, has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the incidence of newly diagnosed skin cancer in England in each year since 1997. I am replying in his absence. (183049)

The most recent available figures are for the year 2001. The numbers of cases for the years 1997 to 2001 are given in the table below.

Number of newly diagnosed cases of skin cancer[1] in England, by age group, 1997–2001

	Number of cases				
Age group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
0–14	8	9	6	5	4
15–29	304	305	271	333	354
30–44	823	905	917	1,069	1,115
45–49	420	433	383	407	506
50–64	1,381	1,405	1,401	1,629	1,696
65 and over	1,940	1,964	2,064	2,378	2,387
Total	4,876	5,021	5,042	5,821	6,062

[1] Melanoma skin cancer is defined as C43 in the 10th edition of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Smoking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been spent by his Department treating smoking-related diseases in each year since 1997, broken down by health authority area; and how many *(a)* patients were treated for smoking-related medical conditions and *(b)* deaths were directly attributed to smoking in each year. [178933]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The detailed information as requested is not routinely collected.

The latest data available on smoking related deaths estimated that, in the United Kingdom in 1995, smoking caused more than 120,000 deaths of people aged 35 years or over[1].

Treating illness and disease caused by smoking is estimated to cost the National Health Service up to £1.7 billion every year in terms of general practitioner visits, prescriptions, treatment and operations[2].

Information on primary diagnosis of smoking related conditions, a count of finished admissions episodes by strategic health authority in England from 1997–2003, is shown in the table.

Sources:
[1] The UK Smoking Epidemic: Deaths in 1995 by the Health Education Authority.
[2] Buck D, Godfrey C, Parrott S, Raw M, University of York Centre for Health Economics. Cost effectiveness of smoking cessation interventions. London: Health Education Authority, 1997.

Primary Diagnosis (ICD-10 Codes) smoking related conditions—Count of finished admission episodes by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment (2002–03 boundaries) NHS Hospitals, England 1997–98 to 2002–03

SHA of treatment		*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk And Cambridgeshire HA	41,324	43,355	46,597	48,485	51,376	53,551
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	6,673	6,931	9,337	18,446	18,280	19,538
Q03	Essex HA	22,305	23,257	25,548	25,088	24,724	24,668
Q04	North West London HA	25,590	35,891	38,908	40,168	36,974	39,021
Q05	North Central London HA	20,600	19,892	25,274	25,011	24,375	24,114
Q06	North East London HA	17,777	17,709	28,240	28,211	34,026	33,747
Q07	South East London HA	31,821	32,552	31,656	31,530	27,951	30,538
Q08	South West London HA	21,705	22,245	27,397	27,731	28,467	28,356
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	9,589	43,910	43,563	43,959	43,351	44,879
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	—	—	17,304	17,028	17,001	28,772
Q11	North and East Yorkshire And Northern Lincolnshire HA	11,766	11,734	33,507	33,595	31,232	32,559
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	10,203	30,847	50,637	48,791	50,381	50,234
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	9,115	15,854	18,378	17,173	21,628	40,239

Primary Diagnosis (ICD-10 Codes) smoking related conditions—Count of finished admission episodes by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment (2002–03 boundaries) NHS Hospitals, England 1997–98 to 2002–03

SHA of treatment		1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	41,826	45,361	49,260	41,254	52,043	63,570
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	44,526	46,294	52,653	52,150	53,577	53,735
Q16	Thames Valley HA	17,008	27,807	30,151	28,459	28,892	30,368
Q17	Hampshire and Isle Of Wight HA	24,415	27,114	29,669	31,254	30,076	32,967
Q18	Kent and MedwayHA	5,394	5,275	17,263	25,453	23,585	25,505
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	14,905	20,368	24,848	26,300	23,579	42,676
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	20,599	24,605	31,319	30,802	31,737	44,623
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	29,012	31,208	32,605	33,120	34,527	35,391
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	21,449	22,393	21,535	21,575	21,608	22,650
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	9,756	9,565	24,772	27,168	35,558	37,677
Q24	Trent HA	25,950	35,655	46,124	51,792	49,283	48,941
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	8,856	8,963	28,293	29,484	28,446	28,609
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	24,726	24,810	24,639	22,723	23,807	25,909
Q27	Birmingham and The Black Country HA	42,076	43,151	46,649	45,905	46,429	54,357
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	17,461	18,348	22,544	27,621	26,492	26,767
Y	Unknown	432,954	344,830	156,477	123,130	72,104	—
	England	1,009,381	1,039,923	1,035,145	1,023,406	391,509	1,023,961

Notes:
1. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.
3. Strategic Health Authority (SHA) data quality—SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002–03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on SHA of treatment is poor in 1997–98 and 1998–99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Source:
Hospital episode statistics, Department of Health.

Sperm Supply

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the level of protection for recipients of fresh sperm afforded by the current regulatory framework governing supply; [182369]

(2) if he will bring forward legislation governing the supply and purchase of fresh sperm to afford greater protection to recipients. [182370]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 requires the provision of treatment services using fresh donated sperm to be regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. This ensures that the recipients of the sperm are afforded protection. Private arrangements involving the supply of fresh donated sperm for home insemination purposes, that do not involve the provision of treatment services, do not come within the remit of the Act.

The Department will also be considering the regulation of arrangements that involve fresh sperm in the review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 that I announced in January 2004. The European Union Directive on Tissues and Cells (Directive 2004/23/EC), due to come into force in April 2006, will also set safety and quality standards for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of tissues and cells for human application, including donated sperm.

Surplus Capacity

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surplus capacity in each specialism there is in each NHS hospital, broken down by region. [182042]

Mr. Hutton: The capacity planning exercise currently in progress aims to identify growth in levels of activity and to define any gaps in the service capability to accommodate that growth. The exercise may identify where spare capacity exists and how that spare capacity might be used to deliver increased activity. It will also help to specify the requirements for a second round of independent sector procurement of diagnostic services and elective activity to be in place for 2006–08. These outputs are expected to be available in September 2004.

Training (Nurses and Doctors)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it costs to train *(a)* a nurse and *(b)* a doctor. [182409]

Mr. Hutton: The latest year for which figures are available show that, in 2003–04, the national average cost of tuition to train a nurse over the three years of their course was £19,370. Diploma students would also be entitled to a non-means tested bursary, which in 2003–04 averaged £6,772 per annum.

In the period between entry to medical school and full registration, it is estimated that training a doctor costs between £200,000 and £250,000. Doctors generally continue training after full registration. As the duration and nature of post-registration training varies greatly and as service and training costs are closely related, it is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the total cost of training.

Winter Warmth Campaign

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the Keep

Warm Keep Well campaign last winter; what analysis he has commissioned on the advice people received from the winter warmth line; what plans he has for the campaign for this winter; and if he will make a statement. [180629]

Dr. Ladyman: To assess the effectiveness of the Keep Warm, Keep Well campaign, we plan to contact callers to the winter warmth advice line who inquired about grants or benefits to assess how effective the winter warmth advice line was in helping them. A decision has yet to be made on the plans for the campaign for 2004–05.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

Andy King: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent weekly income thresholds are over which the Government judge children to be lifted out of poverty in the United Kingdom *(a)* before housing costs and *(b)* after housing costs; and in each case, (i) how many children remain in poverty and (ii) how many children would be judged to have been lifted out of poverty if each of these thresholds were increased by (A) £20, (B) £30 and (C) £40 a week. [180944]

Mr. Pond: The available information is in the tables.

Weekly monetary incomes, for illustrative household types, equal to 60 per cent. of contemporary median equivalised income in 2002–03

Household type	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
Couple with no children (equivalised income benchmark)	194	172
Couple with two children aged 5 and 11	283	253
Single with two children aged 5 and 11	207	175
Couple with one child aged 5	235	208
Single with one child aged 5	159	131

Notes:
1. The weekly household equivalised income threshold for the contemporary measure of low income used for the PSA target on reducing child poverty for 2002–03 was £194 on a before housing costs basis and £172 on an after housing costs basis.
2. Equivalised incomes adjust household incomes for household composition, to reflect the fact that households of differing composition need differing levels of cash income to attain a given standard of living; results presented here use the McClements equivalisation scale.
3. All figures are in pounds per week, in 2002–03 prices, rounded to the nearest pound, and are consistent with current National Statistics conventions.

Source:
"Households Below Average Income—An analysis of the income distribution for 1994–95—2002–03"

Number of children in low income if the threshold were raised by the following amounts

Million

Threshold raised by:	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
£0	2.6	3.6
£20	3.5	4.4
£30	4.0	4.8
£40	4.4	5.2

Notes:
1. Figures are given to the nearest 0.1 million children.
2. All figures relate to 2002–03, the latest date for which data are available.
3. The threshold used here is the value of 60 per cent. of the median income both before and after housing costs.

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Council Tax Benefit (Coventry, South)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many council tax benefit recipients there are in Coventry, South. [183267]

Mr. Pond: The number of council tax benefit recipients is not available by parliamentary constituency. As at February 2004, 30,100 households were in receipt of council tax benefit in the Coventry city council area.

Notes:
1. The figure has been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Council tax benefit data excludes any Second Adult Rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System
Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count.

Departmental Advisers (Costs)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs were to his Department of outside consultants, advisers, accountants and lawyers in the last 12 months. [182077]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested for 2003–04 will not be available until the end of July 2004. A copy of the document will be placed in the Library once available.

Disabled People (Assessment of Services)

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the efficacy and efficiency of services provided by his Department to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [183256]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are committed to improving the position of disabled people in society and believe that public bodies should take the lead in promoting equal opportunities. That is why the draft Disability Discrimination Bill extends the DDA to the functions of public bodies and introduces a duty on public bodies to promote equality for disabled people.

Accordingly, the Department keeps the efficacy and efficiency of services provided to disabled people under constant review. For example, in the past year we have improved the provision of online Government information for disabled people and unpaid carers with the launch of Directgov in April 2004 (www.direct.gov.uk/disability). This covers a range of areas including rights, employment, independent living and health.

We are in the process of modernising all benefits, including by making it possible to claim them online. Customers can already claim carer's allowance online and by the end of 2005, disabled customers will also be able to claim DLA and AA on-line. We also introduced a new substantially shortened claim forms for

attendance allowance last October, which has simplified the claims process for disability benefits for those aged 65 or over.

We are committed to helping disabled people into employment. For example, between April 2003 to March 2004 over 20,000 jobs were gained by participants on the New Deal for Disabled People programme. In addition, the Pathways to Work Program, a new way of giving early and continuing support to people on incapacity benefit is being piloted in several areas and is already generating good feedback and positive results.

Sustainable Development

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what parts of his Department's estate will not be covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181443]

Mr. Pond: The whole of the DWP Estate will be covered by the commitments outlined within the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to review arrangements for public reporting of sustainable development impacts in accordance with the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate; and what arrangements his Department has to report publicly on its key sustainable development impacts. [181444]

Mr. Pond: The Department for Work and Pensions published its first separate Sustainable Development Report in November 2001. The Department is committed to issuing this comprehensive report and publishes this annually on the DWP public-facing Internet site. The report contains information on progress on the targets contained within the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate, details of policy developments and their impacts on the overall UK Sustainable Development Strategy as well as considering the wider social impacts of the Department's operations.

The Department will continue to fully contribute to the Government's annual Sustainable Development in Government report.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress there has been in reducing *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* single occupancy car commuting in his Department against the baseline year. [181445]

Mr. Pond: The Department for Work and Pensions has recalculated its baseline figures for road transport vehicle carbon emissions to make use of improved data collection. The results are given in the table:

	Kg CO_2	*Percentage reduction*
2002–03	21,391,275	—
2003–04	20,191,096	5.6

This indicates that the Department is well on course to meet the 10 per cent. reduction in road transport CO_2 emissions, contained within the Travel targets of the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate.

The Department has already stated its intention not to gather information on single occupancy car commuting as this would be excessively resource intensive, given the size of the estate. The Department continues to encourage the use of Green Commuting at a corporate level.

Departmental Water Use

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes there have been in levels of water consumption by his Department in each year from 1997 to date. [181447]

Mr. Pond: The levels of water consumption for the Department for Work and Pensions, including all its agencies are given in the following table, which summarises the information given in the "Sustainable Development in Government" reports. Figures are reported from 2001–02 because DWP did not come into existence until June 2001.

	m^3
2001–02	7.7
2002–03	9.14

The figures for 2001–02 only reflect information for the former Employment Service estate.

Figures are not yet available for 2003–04, but will be reported in the next Sustainable Development in Government report.

Girocheque Payments

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of Girocheque payments were delayed or lost between 31 March 2002 and 1 April 2003; and how many of these late payments resulted in emergency payments to claimants. [177395]

Mr. Pond: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the information which is available on Girocheques between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003.

	Number
Girocheques issued	43,570,325
Girocheques reported not received, lost, stolen or destroyed	288,999
Number of Girocheques reported not received, lost, missing or stolen as a percentage of Girocheques issued	0.66

Customers who suffer hardship as a result of delayed or lost Girocheques can apply for a payment from the social fund. We do not keep specific data on the number of customers who apply to the social fund for this reason.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of jobseeker's allowance who found work made a subsequent claim for JSA in the following six months broken down by *(a)* all adults, *(b)* adults aged 16 to 24, *(c)* adults aged 25 to 49 and *(d)* adults aged 50 years to state pension age in the last period for which figures are available. [181111]

Mr. Pond: The information requested is shown in the tables. The latest available information is for February 2003, as this allows a full six months for claimants leaving benefit to return. Updated figures (for August 2003) however should become available within the next two weeks.

Persons leaving JSA on finding work[1]: Great Britain September 2002 to August 2003

JSA claim ending in period	All terminations (Thousand)	Returning to JSA within six months (Thousand)	Percentage returning to JSA within 6 months
All ages			
March 2002 to February 2003	746.1	264.4	35.4
March to May 2002	209.2	73.9	35.3
June to August 2002	183.0	70.4	38.5
September to November 2002	222.7	89.3	40.1
December 2002 to February 2003	226.8	83.0	36.6
Claimant aged 16 to 24[2]			
March 2002 to February 2003	231.0	94.9	41.1
March to May 2002	65.8	26.9	40.9
June to August 2002	58.6	25.0	42.6
September to November 2002	78.9	35.7	45.3
December 2002 to February 2003	69.5	29.2	42.0
Claimant aged 25 to 49[2]			
March 2002 to February 2003	413.6	138.3	33.4
March to May 2002	114.8	38.1	33.2
June to August 2002	101.1	37.4	37.0
September to November 2002	116.6	43.6	37.4
December 2002 to February 2003	126.4	43.6	34.5
Claimant aged 50 and over[2]			
March 2002 to February 2003	101.5	31.2	30.7
March to May 2002	28.6	8.9	31.1
June to August 2002	23.4	8.0	34.3
September to November 2002	27.1	10.0	36.8
December 2002 to February 2003	30.9	10.2	33.0

[1] The numbers show the number of people who have left JSA on finding work, working on average 16 hours per week or more, and on taking up the New Deal Employers Option.
[2] Age is given at the point the JSA claim terminates.
Notes:
1. Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and expressed in thousands. Percentages are given to one decimal place.
2. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Figures are based on persons who were receiving income-based or contribution-based JSA when their claim terminated. National insurance credits only cases are not included.
4. A person is counted only once in each period, regardless of the number of times they claim and subsequently leave JSA.. This means that the annual figures will be considerably lower than the sum of the four quarters.
Source:
IAD Information Centre, 5 per cent. samples

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* severe disablement allowance who found work made a subsequent claim for one of those benefits in the following six months broken down by (i) all adults, (ii) adults aged 16 to 24, (iii) adults aged 25 to 49 and (iv) adults aged 50 years to state pension age in the last period for which figures are available. [181112]

Mr. Pond: The available information is in the tables.

People leaving jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance on finding work, March 2002 to February 2003

Thousand

	Number of claimants ending their claim to:		
	Jobseeker's allowance	Incapacity benefit	Severe disablement allowance
All ages	746.1	23.5	0.6
Claimant aged 16–24	231.0	0.9	[1]0.1
Claimant aged 25–49	413.6	13.3	0.5
Claimant aged 50 and over	101.5	9.3	..

Proportion of people returning to benefit within six months of ending a previous claim, March 2002 to February 2003

Percentage

	People returning to benefit within 6 months of ending their claim to:		
	Jobseeker's allowance	Incapacity benefit	Severe disablement allowance
All ages	37.6	16.8	[1]16.7
Claimant aged 16–24	43.1	[1]23.3	..
Claimant aged 25–49	35.6	15.9	[1]16.0
Claimant aged 50 and over	33.3	17.4	..

[1] are based on very few sample cases and will be subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

Persons leaving income support by age group, March 2002 to February 2003

	Number
All ages	884,900
16–24	135,800
25–49	409,500
50 and over	339,600

Proportion of people leaving Income Support who return to IS, JSA, IB or SPA within 6 months by age group, March 2002-February 2003

	Number
All ages	31.1
16–24	43.5
25–49	37.9
50 and over	18.0

n/a = Percentage is not applicable, as at least one of the corresponding caseloads is nil or negligible.
[1] Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and expressed in thousands. Percentages are given to one decimal place.
Notes:
1. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
2. JSA figures are based on persons who were receiving Income-based or contribution-based JSA when their claim terminated. National Insurance credits only cases are not included.
3. JSA numbers show the number of people who have left JSA on finding work, working on average 16 hours per week or more, and on taking up the New Deal Employers Option.

4. Incapacity Benefit figures are based on persons receiving either Long Term or
5. Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance terminations shown are those recorded as "returning to work" and therefore figures may not directly correspond to those finding work.
6. All Income Support terminations are shown as the reason for leaving benefit is not known.
7. A person is counted only once in each period, regardless of the number of times they claim and subsequently leave each benefit.
8. Age is given at the point the claim terminates.
9. End dates of IS claims are not collected, therefore the claim end dates for IS claimants are estimated. Persons returning within 6 months will therefore be a six month period from the estimated end date.
10. "—" signifies nil or negligible.

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people aged over 50 years who made a new claim for jobseeker's allowance were (i) still claiming jobseeker's allowance, (ii) claiming another benefit and (iii) in employment six months later in the latest period for which figures are available. [181114]

Mr. Pond: The available information requested is shown in the tables. The latest available information is for February 2003, as this allows a full six months for claimants leaving benefit to return. Updated information (for August 2003) will be available within the next two weeks.

Persons commencing a claim to jobseeker's allowance (JSA): Great Britain March 2002 to February 2003—All ages

Thousand

		Status of claim six months after commencement[1,2]			
Claim ending in period:	*All claims commencing in period*	*All still receiving JSA*	*Still receiving JSA (same claim)*	*Still receiving JSA (subsequent claim)*	*All receiving another benefit*[3]
March 2002 to February 2003	1,928.7	725.4	396.0	329.4	118.8
March 2002 to May 2002	579.1	201.2	115.7	85.5	36.6
June 2002 to August 2002	611.7	218.8	119.5	99.3	35.6
September 2002 to November 2002	610.0	234.3	139.5	94.8	37.8
December 2002 to February 2003	623.7	213.3	128.7	84.6	35.5

Thousand

	Status of claim six months after commencement[1,2]		
Claim ending in period	*Claimants subsequently leaving benefit*	*Left JSA for work*[4] *(and had not returned within six months)*	*Left JSA for other reasons (and had not returned at the six-month date)*
March 2002 to February 2003	1,084.6	451.6	632.9
March 2002 to May 2002	341.3	113.1	228.2
June 2002 to August 2002	357.2	121.8	235.5
September 2002 to November 2002	338.0	138.7	199.3
December 2002 to February 2003	374.8	185.7	189.2

Persons commencing a claim to jobseeker's allowance (JSA): Great Britain March 2002 to February 2003—Claimant aged up to and including 50 years of age[5]

Thousand

		Status of claim six months after commencement[1,2]			
Claim ending in period:	*All claims commencing in period*	*All still receiving JSA*	*Still receiving JSA (same claim)*	*Still receiving JSA (subsequent claim)*	*All receiving another benefit*[3]
March 2002 to February 2003	1,711.4	645.1	346.2	298.9	101.9
March 2002 to May 2002	509.7	177.7	100.7	77.0	31.3
June 2002 to August 2002	547.6	195.1	104.2	90.9	31.0
September 2002 to November 2002	539.7	208.3	122.2	86.1	32.5
December 2002 to February 2003	554.8	191.9	114.3	77.6	30.7

Thousand

	Status of claim six months after commencement[1,2]		
Claim ending in period:	*Claimants subsequently leaving benefit*	*Left JSA for work*[4] *(and had not returned within six months)*	*Left JSA for other reasons (and had not returned at the six-month date)*
March 2002 to February 2003	964.4	395.3	569.1
March 2002 to May 2002	300.7	97.2	203.5
June 2002 to August 2002	321.5	107.5	214.0
September 2002 to November 2002	298.9	119.9	179.1
December 2002 to February 2003	332.2	161.5	170.7

Persons commencing a claim to jobseeker's allowance (JSA): Great Britain March 2002 to February 2003—Claimant aged over 50 years[5]

Thousand

		Status of claim six months after commencement [1,2]			
Claim ending in period:	*All claims commencing in period*	*All still receiving JSA*	*Still receiving JSA (same claim)*	*Still receiving JSA (subsequent claim)*	*All receiving another benefit* [3]
March 2002 to February 2003	217.3	80.3	49.8	30.5	16.9
March 2002 to May 2002	69.4	23.5	15.0	8.5	5.3
June 2002 to August 2002	64.1	23.8	15.3	8.4	4.6
September 2002 to November 2002	70.3	26.0	17.3	8.7	5.3
December 2002 to February 2003	68.9	21.4	14.4	7.0	4.8

Thousand

	Status of claim six months after commencement [1,2]		
Claim ending in period:	*Claimants subsequently leaving benefit*	*Left JSA for work* [4] *(and had not returned within six months)*	*Left JSA for other reasons (and had not returned at the six-month date)*
March 2002 to February 2003	120.1	56.3	63.8
March 2002 to May 2002	40.6	15.9	24.7
June 2002 to August 2002	35.7	14.2	21.5
September 2002 to November 2002	39.0	18.8	20.2
December 2002 to February 2003	42.7	24.2	18.5

[1] A person is counted only once in each period, regardless of the number of times they claim and subsequently leave each benefit. Only the first claim in any given period is counted, and it is that claim from which the six-month period has been calculated. As claimants may have more than one claim starting (and ending) within the same three month or annual period this means that the annual figures will be considerably lower than the sum of the four quarters.

[2] The status of a claim at the six-month later period does not take account of subsequent changes after the six-month date. The status of a claim may change after the six-month point.

[3] Claimants receiving income support or incapacity benefit where claims commenced on or after 1 March 2002. Movements to other benefits are not considered. For example a person who retires and moves to state pension will be counted as leaving JSA for other reasons.

[4] JSA numbers for those claimants leaving on finding work show the number of people who have left JSA on finding work, working on average 16 hours per week or more, and on taking up the New Deal Employers Option and have not returned to benefit by the six-month date (benefits considered are jobseeker's allowance, income support, or incapacity benefit).

Only the claim commencing in the time specified is considered and any claimant whose claim ends, returns to JSA and then leaves again to go into work is not counted in this category.

Only those cases where no subsequent claim to benefit is made after leaving for work are shown. Any claimant who makes any additional claim after leaving benefit to move to work is not counted in this category, regardless of whether that claim also subsequently ends before the six months in question.

Claimants shown in this category may in fact have returned to JSA or another benefit after the six-month point.

Where a case is shown as having left JSA for work and not returned, this does not mean that the person is still in employment. Once a person has left the benefit system it is not possible to say what they are doing after this point.

[5] Age is given at the point the claim commences.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and expressed in thousands.
2. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. JSA figures are based on all persons who were claiming JSA and include those receiving income-based or contribution-based and national insurance credits only cases.
4. SDA claimants are not considered in the numbers receiving another benefit as only claims commencing on or after 1 March 2002 are included in the analysis. SDA has not been available to new claimants since 6 April 2001. From this point, disabled people, whose period of incapacity begins before the age of 20 (or 25 if in education or training before the age of 20), may have been able to receive incapacity benefit without having to satisfy the national insurance contribution conditions. SDA recipients aged below 20 at the cut-off point would have transferred on to IB at the long-term rate in April 2002. Existing recipients can continue to receive the benefit for as long as they satisfy the conditions of entitlement for the benefit. Some persons shown as leaving benefit may therefore have retained entitlement to SDA.

Source:

IAD Information Centre, 5 per cent. samples.

Long-Term Hospital In-Patients (Benefit)

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how and when the present level of benefit payable to long-term hospital in-patients to meet day-to-day personal requirements was set. [179021]

Malcolm Wicks: The question of entitlements for hospital in-patients was originally looked at by the National Insurance Advisory Committee in 1949 shortly after the present national insurance system was introduced. The Committee recommended that after 52 weeks hospital in-patients should receive an amount sufficient to meet their day-to-day personal requirements, roughly 20 per cent. of the standard rate of State Pension.

Minimum Income Guarantee

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pension credit guarantee element recipients in each region were previously in receipt of the minimum income guarantee. [181928]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is given in the following table.

Percentage of pension credit guarantee element recipients previously in receipt of Minimum Income Guarantee, by region, 31 May 2004

Government office region	All guarantee element recipients	Guarantee element recipients converted from MIG	Percentage of Guarantee element recipients converted from MIG
Great Britain	2,018,185	1,635,490	81
North East	115,775	95,810	83
North West	274,075	225,610	82
Yorkshire and The Humber	190,980	155,620	81
East Midlands	139,970	111,885	80
West Midlands	210,305	172,370	82
East of England	158,840	124,690	79
London	232,585	197,800	85
South East	200,790	155,980	78
South West	163,980	127,560	78
Wales	120,100	95,770	80
Scotland	210,780	172,395	82

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Those converted from MIG are those households in receipt of MIG at 3 October 2003.
3. Guarantee element recipients include those receiving both the guarantee element and savings element.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what new strategies have been *(a)* developed and *(b)* implemented by his Department since June 2001 to ensure that national insurance numbers are issued, used and controlled consistently. [182069]

Mr. Pond: The Department is committed to ensuring that national insurance numbers (NINOs) are issued, used and controlled correctly. We will continue to develop and implement strategies and processes to enable us to achieve this commitment.

In April 2001, we introduced the Enhanced NINO allocation Process (ENP). This process ensures a consistent robust approach to NINO allocation for benefit applications and for those starting work, or in employment. The ENP includes face to face interviews, the provision of more tools for verifying that documents are genuine, and comprehensive training for staff who are interviewing customers regarding applications for NINOs. We have continued to refine this process to achieve a balance between security and customer service.

Before entitlement to benefit can be considered an individual and their partner need to satisfy section 19 of the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997 regarding NINO provision. This requires the customer to provide enough information and evidence to confirm that the NINO quoted on the claim is their own. Where a customer does not know their NINO, they are required to provide enough information and evidence in order that the correct NINO can be traced. If the customer does not have a NINO, they are required to verify their identity and provide enough information in order that a NINO can be issued.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases his Department have discovered where *(a)* an individual has been using more than one national insurance number and *(b)* a number is being used by more than one individual in each year since 1992. [182070]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the tables. Cases of national insurance numbers being used by more than one individual may derive from fraud, customer error or official error; it is not possible to give a breakdown of numbers from each cause.

Individuals found to be using more than one national insurance number

	Number of cases
2001	586
2002	447
2003	303
2004	[1]218

[1] To date.

Cases of a national insurance number being used by more than one individual

	Number of cases
2001	2,539
2002	2,418
2003	2,533
2004	[1]1,522

[1] To date.

Note:
Information is not available prior to 2001.
Source:
Departmental Central Index frontline services.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers there have been on *(a)* the Departmental Central Index and *(b)* NIRS1/NIRS2 in each year since 1992. [182138]

Mr. Pond: The information is in the tables.

The numbers of national insurance numbers (NINOs) held on the Departmental Central Index (DCI) is greater than on NIRS1/NIRS2 as DCI also holds records for 12.5 million children; such records are only notified to NIRS2 when the children reach age 16. In addition, DCI holds NINOs allocated to customers who are over retirement pension age; these records are not notified to NIRS2 as there is no contribution liability.

NINOs held on DCI at 31 December each year

	Total NINOs (million)
1992	71
1993	75
1994	76
1995	77
1996	77
1997	79
1998	80
1999	81
2000	82
2001	83
2002	84
2003	85

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest million.
Source:
Departmental Central Index

NINOs held on NIRS1/NIRS2 at 31 December each year

	Total NINOs (million)
1992	61
1993	62
1994	63
1995	64
1996	65
1997	66
1998	67
1999	68
2000	69
2001	70
2002	72
2003	73

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest million.
Source:
Inland Revenue

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the process is for deleting national insurance numbers. [182139]

Mr. Pond: National insurance numbers are deleted where a duplicate account has been identified or where a national insurance number has been allocated but not used.

When a national insurance number is deleted any benefits currently in payment against that national insurance number are transferred or ended. The national insurance number is then deleted completely from the database. However, just prior to deletion, a hardcopy of the account history is obtained and retained for 18 months for audit purposes.

New Deal

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have participated in the New Deal in Wansdyke. [182491]

Jane Kennedy: 430 lone parents have started the New Deal for Lone Parents in Wansdyke since the beginning of the programme in October 1998. Lone parents may have gained work through other New Deal programmes but cannot be identified separately.

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 50 years and over in Wansdyke have participated in *(a)* the New Deal and *(b)* other employment initiatives since 1997. [182492]

Jane Kennedy: 160 individuals aged 50 years and over have participated in the New Deal programme in Wansdyke. Information on the number of people aged 50 years or over involved in employment initiatives or programmes other than the New Deal is not available.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase the budget for the New Deal for Disabled People. [182535]

Jane Kennedy: Funding for employment programs is being considered as part of the 2004 spending review and an announcement will be made in due course.

New Deal 25-Plus Programme

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of all starters on the New Deal 25-plus programme have left to enter sustained unsubsidised jobs. [176080]

Jane Kennedy: The New Deal has helped to achieve record levels of employment and has been an important boost to the economy, helping over a million people into work. Up to the end of March 2004, there were a total of 697,970 starts on New Deal 25-plus. In the same period, 178,000 people were helped into work through this programme, 117,250 of these into sustained, unsubsidised employment. Therefore almost 17 per cent. of starts have resulted so far in sustained, unsubsidised jobs.

A total of 141,580 people (over 20 per cent.) have found sustained employment through New Deal 25-plus. However, some of these are still in receipt of a job subsidy so are not recorded as having left New Deal.

There are currently 54,840 people participating in New Deal 25-plus and a number of these will subsequently leave the programme to a sustained unsubsidised job. The proportion of leavers from the enhanced New Deal 25-plus programme (which started in April 2001) who have left to a sustained, unsubsidised job is 25 per cent.

New Deal 25-plus has to be considered in the context of the people it sets out to help. Most have been out of work for 18 months or more in a healthy market and are considered among our hardest to help customers. frequently with multiple barriers to employment. Helping these customers into work is a substantial achievement. Not only does the programme help people into jobs as quickly as possible, it provides those facing greater difficulties with extra help to improve their job prospects and confidence. This help can include: work experience with an employer, training to develop the skills that employers want, and practical help with applying for jobs.

Pensioner Compensation Scheme

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of benefit payments which would have been paid to the 60,000 deferred pensioners who lost their entitlements and who will benefit from the Government compensation scheme. [180369]

Malcolm Wicks: Details of the Financial Assistance Scheme, for members of pension schemes which have wound up under funded where the employer is insolvent, are being developed in consultation with interested parties. It will not be possible to make a reliable estimate of the cost of benefit payments that would have been paid to those who will benefit until the details of who will be eligible for the scheme are agreed and until detailed information is collected from all those schemes which might be eligible. It is not therefore possible to answer the question in the form requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on the extent of the problem which I made on 30 June, *Official Report*, columns 15–16WS.

Private Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the total value of private pension funds. [182135]

Malcolm Wicks: Information on the market value of self-administered pension funds is collected by ONS as part of the annual balance sheet survey to self-administered pension funds and published as part of the Business Monitor Investment by insurance companies, pension funds and trusts on the National Statistics website. The latest published figure is £610 billion for end 2002.

The value of other private pension funds is included in aggregates collected by ONS in the annual balance sheet survey to long-term insurance companies. However the aggregates cover all long-term business, including life assurance, pensions and other business, written by the companies. A split of the insurance companies' funds between pensions and other business is not available nor is any estimate of the total value of private pension funds.

The Review of Pension Contributions Statistics recommended that

> "ONS explores with insurance companies whether it is possible to split their investment flows according to pensions and other business".

Consultation with insurance companies indicated that this split would be too difficult for them to produce on a company basis and that the respondents would not be confident of any data provided on this basis.

Public Services (Funding)

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will identify for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies and task forces for which it is responsible each funding stream for public services in (i) the Isle of Thanet and (ii) Canterbury City local authority area. [181701]

Mr. Pond: The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies are responsible for the following funding streams to Canterbury city council and Thanet district council:

Canterbury city council

- Rent Rebate Subsidy;
- Rent Allowance Subsidy;
- Council Tax Benefit Subsidy;
- Anti-fraud Subsidies;
- Discretionary Housing Payments;
- Administration Grant (Housing and Council Tax Benefit Schemes)
- Verification Payment Subsidy;
- Performance Standards Funding payments;
- European Social Fund Objective 3 (Human Resource Activity) Funding.

Thanet district council

- Rent Rebate Subsidy;
- Rent Allowance Subsidy;
- Council Tax Benefit Subsidy;
- Anti-fraud Subsidies;
- Discretionary Housing Payments;
- Administration Grant (Housing and Council Tax Benefit Schemes);
- Housing Benefit Accuracy Review Payments
- Joint Working Initiative Payments;
- European Social Fund Objective 3 (Human Resource Activity) Funding.

Swale Borough Council (Housing Benefit)

Mr. Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what further steps he proposes to take to improve the administration of housing benefit at Swale borough council. [183314]

Mr. Pond: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 8 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 837W.

Vulnerable Customers (Payments by Cheque)

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written statement of 11 May 2004, *Official Report*, columns 6–7WS, on vulnerable customers (payments by cheque), whether pensioners unable to get to their local Pension Service office will be able to collect emergency pension payments from the nearest Jobcentre Plus or Social Security office instead. [177435]

Mr. Pond: Procedures are in place to maintain continuity of payment to avoid any inconvenience to the customer. Where the need for a replacement payment exists, each case will be treated on its merits. For example, depending on the level of urgency and need, The Pension Service may:

- issue a further cheque by post, once the loss of a earlier payment has been verified by the customer; or
- arrange for a visiting officer from the Pension Service to visit the customer at home and, in the light of individual needs either arrange to take another cheque payment to the customer, or arrange for the customer to collect a replacement cheque payment, at a nominated time from the existing range of secure sites including Jobcentre Plus offices.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Afghanistan

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan outside Kabul. [182781]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Security remains fragile throughout Afghanistan. The north is subject to long-standing tensions between regional factions but is generally stable, with UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Mazar-e Sharif and Meymana helping to defuse tension. The New Zealand-led PRT in Bamian and the coalition PRT in Oruzgan are helping to maintain stability in central areas. There tend to be fewer security incidents in the west but units of the Afghan National Army (ANA) have deployed to Herat and Ghowr in recent months in response to violent incidents.

Security in the south and east is more worrying, with attacks resulting in the murder of international and Afghan aid workers and officials. Seven PRTs have been established in southern and eastern provinces to help

improve the security environment. Coalition forces and units of the ANA continue to pursue terrorists in these areas.

Attempts by remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda to disrupt and undermine the democratic process are likely to increase as the elections approach. The UN, ISAF and the Coalition are working closely with the Afghan Government on providing a stable and secure environment for the elections. The expansion of ISAF, announced at the recent Istanbul Summit and including the UK PRTs, will help to achieve that.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Ministry of Defence on the provision of further security assistance and *(b)* the Department for International Development on the provision of further development assistance to the Government of Afghanistan. [182785]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff at all levels regularly discuss all aspects of assistance to Afghanistan with counterparts in the Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development. I chair a regular meeting on Afghanistan involving representatives of all three Departments.

Inter-departmental co-operation on Afghanistan is highly effective. The UK contribution to expansion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), announced at the recent NATO Istanbul Summit, is based around the two UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams. These are run jointly by the MoD, FCO and DFID and include representatives from the two civilian departments as well as military personnel. Similarly, UK assistance to reform of the Afghan security sector is funded from the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, which is jointly administered by all three Departments. The UK has £18 million available for security assistance to Afghanistan in financial year 2003–04, in addition to over £23 million contributed since 2002.

At the recent Berlin conference on Afghanistan the UK increased our overall pledge to at least £500 million over five years for development, conflict prevention and counter-narcotics work, a 150 per cent. increase on the previous pledge of £200 million.

Bangladesh

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the ambassador of Bangladesh to the Court of St. James's in connection with corruption in Bangladesh. [182783]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I discussed our concerns over governance and law and order issues in Bangladesh with the high commissioner of Bangladesh His Excellency Mofazzal Karim on 22 January. Officials at our high commission in Dhaka and officials from the Department for International Development regularly raise corruption issues with the Bangladeshi authorities. Our high commissioner raised our concerns with the Foreign Minister on 19 May. Donors including the UK also raised corruption issues at the Bangladesh Development Forum on 9 and 10 May. We were encouraged that the Bangladeshi Parliament passed a bill to form an independent anti-corruption committee in February. We look to the Bangladeshi Government to appoint members to this committee as soon as possible so that it may begin its vital work and to support it in that work.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 32–34WS, on the British Indian Ocean Territory, what estimate he has made of the value of the underwriting by the United Kingdom Government which would be required for the resettlement of the island. [182080]

Mr. Rammell: The feasibility study found that long-term resettlement would be highly precarious. Our assessment, based on comparative costs in other Overseas Territories, is that the initial resettlement costs would be of the order of £5 million in start-up costs and £3 million to £5 million annually thereafter. But these estimates may be overly optimistic and the costs may well be higher.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the International Committee of the Red Cross has *(a)* visited Diego Garcia since 1 January 2001, *(b)* been asked to visit Diego Garcia and *(c)* requested that it might visit Diego Garcia; and if he will make a statement. [182544]

Mr. Rammell: The International Committee of the Red Cross has not visited Diego Garcia at any time. It has neither requested a visit, nor been asked to make a visit.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will commission an independent feasibility study to look at the environmental impact of the military base on Diego Garcia and the surrounding archipelago; and if he will make a statement. [182545]

Mr. Rammell: The US have produced a Natural Resources Management Plan for Diego Garcia, and we published the Chagos Conservation Management Plan in October 2003. Environmental issues are regularly discussed by the UK and US Governments.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms are of the lease of Diego Garcia to the US military with regard to *(a)* monetary terms and *(b)* contractual agreements; what mechanisms are in place to end the lease if dispute over the contract were to occur; and if he will make a statement. [182578]

Mr. Rammell: There is no lease of Diego Garcia to the United States military. However, in 1966 the United Kingdom concluded an agreement with the United States on the use of the British Indian Ocean Territory. Under the initial agreement of 1966, the whole territory is to remain available for the defence needs of the two countries for an initial period of 50 years from 1966, and thereafter for a further period of 20 years unless either party has given prior notice to terminate it. An agreement

concluded in 1976 regulates the establishment and functioning of a United Defence Facility in Diego Garcia and matters incidental thereto.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* US Naval personnel, *(b)* US Air Force personnel and *(c)* other US military personnel are stationed on Diego Garcia in a (i) permanent and (ii) temporary capacity; and if he will make a statement. [182579]

Mr. Rammell: The current US military population on Diego Garcia consists of:

US Navy 827 (permanent), 25 (temporary)

US Airforce 12 (permanent), 740 (temporary)

US Army 2 (permanent), 1 (temporary)

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UK judicial bodies have unrestricted access to the Diego Garcia military base; when such access last occurred; and if he will make a statement. [182580]

Mr. Rammell: Under the 1976 United Kingdom/United States Exchange of Notes concerning the US Defence Facility on Diego Garcia, access to Diego Garcia is in general restricted to members of the forces of the United Kingdom and of the United States, the Commissioner and public officers in the service of the British Indian Ocean Territory, representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom and of the United States and, subject to normal immigration requirements, contractor personnel.

There have been no recent requests by a United Kingdom judicial body to visit Diego Garcia.

Burma

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's position in relation to the treatment of the *(a)* Karen, *(b)* Karenni, *(c)* Chin and *(d)* Kachin peoples of Burma; and what recent representations have been made to the Burmese Government on their treatment. [182751]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Burma and in particular the suffering of ethnic groups.

The UK co-sponsored a widely supported resolution at the UN Commission on Human Rights on 21 April that condemned human rights violations suffered by ethnic groups in Burma. We fully support the efforts of Sergio Pinheiro, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, and have called on the military regime to co-operate fully with him and allow him to visit Burma regularly.

We regularly raise our concerns on human rights with the Burmese authorities, most recently when I met the Burmese ambassador on 1 June.

We will continue to raise our concerns at every suitable opportunity.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent action the Government has taken to secure the release from house arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. [182752]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have repeatedly called on the Burmese regime to fully release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners and to allow them to play an active role in national reconciliation in Burma. Most recently I raised these issues when I met the Burmese Ambassador on 1 June.

Energy Supplies

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the commitment outlined in Foreign Office Strategy to diversify UK energy supplies; and what steps his Department is taking to promote exports from West Africa of energy products to the UK. [183204]

Mr. Rammell: The White Paper "UK International Priorities—a strategy for the FCO" identifies the promotion of international diversification of supply as an important means of achieving the long-term efficiency and stability of the international energy market.

West Africa is of growing significance as a supplier to the international energy market. The FCO is therefore working to promote peaceful political and economic reform and to improve investment regimes and energy sector management in this and other regions. A good example in West Africa is the adoption by Nigeria, the largest oil producer in the region and host to substantial British investment, of the principles of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. This initiative addresses the lack of accountability and transparency in the energy sector.

The FCO is also promoting the security of UK and global energy supplies by promoting sustainable energy production and consumption. The establishment of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership is a good example of our work in this area.

EU Constitutional Treaty

Denzil Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the areas of shared competence within the EU Constitutional Treaty where a unanimous decision of the member states will be required to enable the Union to acquire sole competence. [182965]

Mr. MacShane: Article I-13 of the EU Constitutional Treaty details the areas of shared competence between the Union and the member states. In order for any of these areas to be changed to areas where the Union has exclusive competence, the Treaty would need to be changed. According to the provisions of the EU Constitutional Treaty, these changes would require an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to be convened. Changes proposed during the IGC would then be subject to unanimous agreement by all heads of all member states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

Gibraltar

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the electorate of Gibraltar will vote as part of the United Kingdom in the referendum on the European Constitution. [182824]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is sympathetic to the inclusion of the Gibraltar electorate in the franchise for the referendum on the EU Constitutional Treaty, as he stated to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 25 May. As yet, however, the Government have not yet taken a decision and are continuing to consider the matter.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans Her Majesty the Queen has to visit Gibraltar. [182810]

Mr. Straw: There are currently no plans for HM the Queen to visit Gibraltar. HRH the Princess Royal, accompanied by Rear Admiral Laurence, has just completed a very successful visit (28–30 June) in this, Gibraltar's tercentenary year.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on joint sovereignty with Spain over Gibraltar. [182838]

Mr. MacShane: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 16 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 1417.

Indonesia

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the Indonesian authorities *(a)* to take immediate measures to stop the violence in the Maluku, *(b)* for them to provide for the safety and security of both communities there and *(c)* to ensure that the extremist militants behind the violence are brought to justice. [182750]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We share the hon. Member's concern about the violence in Maluku. Our embassy has kept in close contact with UN and NGOs there and is continuing to monitor the situation. On 29 April, the Acting Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security, Hari Sabarno, visited Ambon with the National Police Chief, Da'i Bachtiar and agreed to increase security personnel in order to restore order.

We welcome the Indonesian Government's initiatives to bring peace to Maluku and continue to urge the Indonesian Government to do all they can to ensure the safety and security of communities that have been affected by the violence in the province. We, along with our EU colleagues, last raised this with Dr. Hasan Wirayuda, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, on 18 May. We have consistently made clear our view that long-term solutions to regional conflicts can only be achieved through negotiation and consultation. We fully support the Malino Peace agreement for Maluku, which brought an end to large-scale inter-communal violence.

Iraq

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support he is giving to the new Iraqi Government to ensure the 25 per cent. quota of women is realised in future elections. [181942]

Mr. Rammell: We have worked with the UN Electoral Assistance Mission to Iraq to encourage the Iraqi Interim Government to take concrete measures aimed at realising the 25 per cent. goal. As a result, the electoral law (CPA Order 96) provides that political parties should submit party lists including at least one woman candidate for every three candidates.

We have also encouraged women candidates for political office at both local and national levels to come forward, including through support for women's conferences, such as that held in Cairo in June this year.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the private UK companies working on the reconstruction of Iraq. [182754]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have details of a number of British companies which have been awarded contracts and sub-contracts for reconstruction work in Iraq. However, there is no single and comprehensive list of UK or other foreign companies working there. Although officials work closely with UK industry, British companies are not required to report these details to the Government. Some companies do not want publicity for security reasons. British companies are active in the power, water, banking, ports, construction, telecoms, security, legal services and consultancy sectors. I will write to my hon. Friend separately with the information we have on UK companies with contracts in Iraq.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the reinstatement of the death penalty in Iraq under the Interim Administration. [183243]

Mr. Rammell: The UK opposes the death penalty as a matter of principle. We have urged the Iraqi Interim Government to abolish it.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the means-tested benefits available through the Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182574]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No means-tested benefits were available to the public through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in May 1997, nor are any available now.

Mr. Brian Savio O'Connor

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action Her Majesty's Government is taking to urge the Saudi Arabian authorities to release Mr. Brian Savio O'Connor, imprisoned and tortured in Saudi Arabia. [182552]

Mr. Rammell: Mr. O'Connor is an Indian national arrested in March this year. The Indian authorities have consular responsibilities for his welfare. We have approached the Indian authorities, and have liaised with other diplomatic missions in Riyadh about this case. However, the reasons for Mr. O'Connor's detention remain unclear. We regularly discuss our concerns about human rights with the Saudi authorities.

Mrs. Siham Qandah

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action Her Majesty's Government is taking to urge the Government of Jordan to ensure that the Christian widow, Mrs. Siham Qandah, is permitted to keep her two Christian children with her and that the attempts to have the children forcibly removed from her custody and converted to Islam are ended. [182553]

Mr. Rammell: This case remains sub judice within the Islamic court system in Jordan. Through our embassy in Amman, we continue to follow the legal process and have again recently drawn the Jordanian authorities' attention to the strong concerns which the case has raised, in the UK and elsewhere, both over the welfare of Mrs. Qandah and her children, and over the underlying principles involved.

Nepal

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the ambassador of Nepal to the Court of St. James's in connection with his Government's handling of the Maoist insurgency. [182784]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Officials talk to the ambassador of Nepal regularly about the Maoist insurgency. Most recently, Sir Jeffrey James, the UK special representative for Nepal, met him on 11 June for a wide-ranging discussion of the way forward following the appointment of the new Prime Minister.

People Trafficking

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the UK towards ratification of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. [181083]

Mr. Browne: I have been asked to reply.

The United Kingdom has signed the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and is committed to its ratification. The protocol requires us to criminalise trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery and the removal of organs.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 includes offences covering trafficking into, within and out of the United Kingdom. These offences were brought into force on 1 May 2004. New offences covering trafficking for exploitation, including trafficking for the purposes of slavery, forced labour and the removal of organs, are included in the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

We consider that, taken together with existing United Kingdom law, the commencement of the trafficking offences in clause 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Bill will mean we are in compliance with our legislative obligations under the protocol.

To enable us to ratify the protocol we must first ratify the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime. We intend to ratify the convention as soon as all legislative requirements to bring our law into compliance with the convention are met.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Strapline

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will set out the Lord Chancellor's reasoning in proposing the Department's strapline. [182919]

Mr. Lammy: As stated in my answer of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 302W, the strapline is intended as a brief and easy to understand description of the Department's responsibilities.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 302W, on rights and duties, if he will replace the word rights with the word obligations or duties in his Department's strapline. [182961]

Mr. Lammy: No.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 302W, on rights and duties, in what way the Department carries out its responsibilities to ensure access to justice for all under the heading of *(a)* rights and *(b)* justice as referred to in the Department's strapline. [182962]

Mr. Lammy: Access to justice is a statutory right. The Department works to improve public access to the justice system while ensuring value for money and without incurring unsustainable cost to the taxpayer. Further detail on DCA's responsibilities and activities can be found in our Departmental Report for 2003–04 (CM 6210). Copies of the Departmental Report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 302W, on rights and duties, what relative weighting the Department gives to *(a)* the duties of Her Majesty's subjects and *(b)* the rights of Her Majesty's subjects in determining its priorities in the context of all its responsibilities in accordance with the Government's policies and priorities. [182964]

Mr. Lammy: I refer you to the answer provided on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 302W. Rights are fundamentally linked with duties, and as such are not afforded separate weightings.

Departmental Employment Claims

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases against the Department, the agencies for which it is responsible and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [181461]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for my Department and its predecessor Department since 1997 are as follows.

(a) One equal pay claim

(b) 34 sex discrimination claims

(c) 17 race discrimination claims

(d) 21 disability discrimination claims

(e) 38 unfair dismissal claims.

There have been:

(i) Two instances of costs awarded against respondents.

(ii) Three instances of costs awarded against applicants.

There has been:

(A) £164,818.09 paid in settlement

(B) £22,055.37 spent contesting claims from 2002–to date.

Human Rights Act/Freedom of Information Act

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what obligations British subjects have under *(a)* the Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [182920]

Mr. Lammy: The legal obligations arising under both Acts are imposed on public authorities and not on British subjects as such.

Magistrates Shadowing Scheme

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the Magistrates Shadowing Scheme. [182913]

Mr. Leslie: The Magistrates Shadowing Scheme is now in its second phase. Its purpose is twofold. Firstly, it seeks to promote participation and inclusiveness from black and other minority ethnic communities in the criminal justice system and so their representation within the magistracy. Secondly, it aims to improve diversity, promote mentoring and remove cultural barriers by making magistrates more accessible to the wider community that they serve.

The scheme provides participants with an invaluable insight into the role of magistrates. It is currently operating in 12 areas across the country:

Derby and South Derbyshire

Walsall

Lancashire (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale)

Merseyside

Leicester

Nottingham

South-west London

Oxfordshire

West Hertfordshire (Watford and Hemel Hempstead)

Birmingham

Bradford

Cardiff

Almost 100 people from Black and minority ethnic communities are shadowing 200 magistrates. This is approximately double the size of the pilot scheme and reflects the success of the project to date. Participants in the current scheme took place in a learning seminar focusing on the role of the magistracy and its place in the criminal justice system during the weekend of 2–4 July 2004 at a conference centre in Daventry.

Feedback from those who have participated in the scheme indicates that it is successfully equipping them to challenge misconceived perceptions of the magistracy and is improving confidence in the criminal justice system among minority communities.

Political Party Manifestos

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will ask the Electoral Commission to issue guidance to political parties on the rules and conventions that apply to manifestos. [182705]

Mr. Leslie: We have no plans to request that such guidance be issued. It is for the political parties themselves to decide on matters relating to their manifestos.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will list the means-tested benefits available through his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182567]

Mr. Lammy: There are no means-tested benefits available through my Department for Constitutional Affairs and its agencies. However, my Department continues to make available, as it did in May 1997, legal aid in civil and criminal matters to those who qualify under the respective schemes. In the case of civil legal aid most legal aid is means-tested; the exceptions are Special Children Act cases and cases before the Mental Health Review Tribunal. Since April 2001, most criminal legal aid has not been means-tested; but the Government have published a draft Bill, the aim of which is to reinstate some means testing.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181875]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible for my Department to provide the full detailed information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial and civil service travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers, and Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff in the Department in the latest year for which figures are available. [182110]

Mr. Lammy: Total cost incurred by my Department on air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain in 2003–04 for *(a)* Ministers, was £2,131.65 and *(b)* staff (from the private offices), was £3,264.62.

It is not possible to provide information for staff from other areas of the Department without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. All ministerial and civil service travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers, and Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Mary Peters Athletic Track

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans the Government have to upgrade the Mary Peters athletic track; and if he will make a statement. [182616]

Angela Smith: The Mary Peters track is owned by Belfast city council and it is a matter for the council to determine whether, and if so how, to upgrade it.

Farm Payment Applications

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in respect of each category of farm payments, how many applications, and of what value, were due to have been paid by 30 June but have not yet been paid; and if he will make a statement. [183505]

Mr. Pearson: In Northern Ireland the number and value of farm payment applications due to have been paid by 30 June but that have not yet been paid are broken down as follows.

	Applications unpaid	*Value (£ million)*
Beef Special Premium	14,320	3.9
Slaughter Premium	2,975	1.7
Suckler Cow Premium	2,204	4.1
Extensification Payment	5,150	11.6

Ombudsman

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to amend legislation to enable Northern Ireland Members of Parliament to submit complaints to the Northern Ireland Ombudsman. [183234]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Ombudsman relates to specified Northern Ireland bodies, which fall within the competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly. That is why the Ombudsman (NI) Order 1996 makes provision for complaints to be referred to the Ombudsman by Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly rather than Members of Parliament. There are no plans to amend the legislation in respect of referral of complaints to the Ombudsman. Meanwhile, the rights of the citizen to have effective access to the Ombudsman through any of the 108 Members of the Assembly remain in place.

Public Inquiries

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public inquiries are taking place and are planned into the murders of members of *(a)* the army, both regular and Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Regiment part-time, *(b)* the Royal Ulster Constabulary and its Reserve and *(c)* victims of terrorism since 1969. [182966]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In my statement to Parliament on 1 April 2004, I set out the Government's intentions with respect to inquiries following the publication of the reports compiled by Justice Peter Cory. As I said then, Justice Cory's reports raise serious questions which it is right to address further.

I fully acknowledge the sacrifice that members of the security forces have made in the pursuit of peace in Northern Ireland. I am acutely aware of the pain and suffering endured by their families and the families of all the victims of terrorism.

In all cases the Government wants to ensure that the truth is established as far as possible, and that the perpetrators of crime are brought to justice. In most cases the Government believes that criminal investigations represent the best way of achieving this.

Right to Buy

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment the Government have made of the adequacy of the notice given to Housing Executive and housing association tenants that applications to buy their homes received after 18 May will be subject to new arrangements whenever they are finalised; and if he will make a statement on the new arrangements. [183233]

Mr. Spellar: I am entirely satisfied with the arrangements for consulting about changes to the house sales scheme.

Applications received after 18 May will continue to be processed but will be subject to whatever new arrangements are introduced. The proposed changes, which may be subject to amendment following the completion of the consultation, are designed to take account of the aspirations of tenants to move to owner occupation without compromising the needs of those who continue to depend on social housing.

Sports Institute

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what sports are catered for within the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland; and what additional sports he anticipates will be added over the next five years. [182606]

Angela Smith: The Sports Institute for Northern Ireland offers services to athletes from Rugby, Athletics, GAA, Hockey, Motor Sports, Soccer, Cycling, Squash, Snooker, Boxing, Table Tennis, Judo, Rowing, Swimming Ice Skating and Sailing. There are no plans for additional sports to be added over the next five years as it is anticipated that the needs of athletes, rather than the sports to which they belong, will be catered for within the Institute in the future.

Museum of Sea and Sky

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions have taken place between Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland and the landowners at Titanic Quarter in relation to the establishment of a Museum of Sea and Sky at that location. [182608]

Angela Smith: MAGNI has been involved in discussion over a period of some two years with Titanic Quarter Ltd. in relation to acquiring a site on or adjacent to the Titanic slipways. The land take required would be approximately 3 acres. Owing to uncertainties about the development mix on the site and the possible change of ownership to a new development company, this issue has not yet been resolved.

Working Time Directive

Mr. Tynan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees in his Department have *(a)* signed a formal opt out from and *(b)* are exempt from the Working Time Directive; and how many employees in his Department have recorded hours, including any accruing on a flexitime basis, in excess of the maximum allowed under the Working Time Directive in the last month for which figures are available. [178374]

Mr. Pearson: The number of employees in the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Departments who:

	Number
(a) have signed a formal opt out form is	916
(b) are exempt from the Working Time Directive is	0
(c) have recorded hours, including any accruing on a flexitime basis, in excess of the maximum allowed under the Working Time Directive in the last month for which figures are available	[1]43

[1] The figure does not include a figure from the Department for Regional Development as the data is not recorded centrally and is therefore not readily available.

We remain committed to keeping the number of employees who are required to work in excess of 48 hours a week to the absolute minimum, commensurate with meeting business needs.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Stations

23. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an assessment of the availability of cell capacity in police stations. [183107]

Ms Blears: The Department does not maintain central records of the availability of cell capacity in police stations. However, from police forces we estimate the number of cells in use, to be in the order of 5,500.

CCTV

24. **Mr. Bill O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional plans he has to assist those areas that did not qualify for CCTV funding in the past to receive CCTV in the near future; and if he will make a statement. [183108]

Caroline Flint: The Home Office invested £170 million in 684 public area CCTV schemes through the CCTV Initiative under the Crime Reduction Programme (CRP). This Initiative closed at the end of 2002–03.

After the conclusion of this programme, crime reduction funding has been directly allocated to local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Basic Command Units to enable them to tackle local crime priorities using a number of interventions including CCTV.

Advisory Panel on Country Information

Denzil Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the members of the Advisory Panel on Country Information. [181800]

Mr. Browne: The members of the Advisory Panel on Country Information are:

Professor Stephen Castles, Director, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. Chair

Dr. Khalid Koser, Migration Research Unit, Department of Geography University College London

Professor Gil Loescher, the International Institute for Strategic Studies

Professor Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Centennial Professor, London School of Economics and Political Science

Professor Vaughan Robinson, Department of Geography, University of Wales Swansea

The Immigration Appellate Authority: Andrew Jordan, Vice President, IAT

The Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House): Lavinia Allison, Business Director and Secretary to the Council

International Crisis Group: Charles Radcliffe, Vice President

International Centre for Migration Policy Development: Gottfried Zuercher, Deputy Director General

International Organisation for Migration: Jan de Wilde, Chief of Mission

The Refugee Council: Anna Reisenberger

The Royal Geographical Society: Professor Richard Black (University of Sussex)

UNHCR: Oldrich Andrysek, Protection Information Section; Christian Mahr, Legal Officer, London Office

Asylum Seekers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers entered the United Kingdom through Heathrow *(a)* last year and *(b)* in each of the last three months for which figures are available. [182722]

Mr. Browne: The requested information is unavailable and could only be produced at disproportionate cost. The table shows asylum applications to the United Kingdom by port and in country.

Applications[1] received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 2003, January to March 2004

	Total Applications	*Applied at port*	*Applied in country*
2003	49,370	13,810	35,560
Jan 2004	3,030	770	2,260
Feb 2004	2,900	705	2,190
Mar 2004	3,015	650	2,365

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5

Information on asylum applications is published in quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin 'Asylum Statistics United Kingdom'. Copies of these publications and others relating to general immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate web site at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many units of accommodation in Kent are kept vacant for the use of asylum seekers by the National Asylum Support Service. [181696]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* Kent is not a designated dispersal area. The National Asylum Support Service does not have any properties in Kent for use by asylum seekers who have been dispersed. There is a 600 bedspace induction centre in Dover with accommodation in Dover, Margate and Ashford. A certain number of vacancies are needed in order to manage the flux in the Induction Centre.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research he has commissioned into the skills and qualifications held by *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* refugees. [181504]

Mr. Browne: The Home Office has conducted a skills audit of refugees, in conjunction with the Skills Audit Working Group which included representatives from both Government Departments and NGOs.

Questionnaires were posted to those people who received a positive decision on their asylum claim over a three-month period, and these collected information on respondents' language skills, qualifications and levels of education, and recent employment experiences.

The results of the survey have now been analysed and the report is being prepared for release.

ASBOs

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued in the south Wales police area in each year since the orders were introduced. [183088]

Ms Blears: Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) were introduced in April 1999. The number of ASBOs granted and notified to the Home Office for the South Wales area is none for 1999, one for 2000, three for 2001, three for 2002, 29 for 2003, and three for January to March 2004. A total of 39.

Across England and Wales, 2,455 ASBOs were granted between April 1999 and March 2004.

Commission for Racial Equality

Mr. Andrew Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants have been made by the Commission for Racial Equality to *(a)* churches, *(b)* temples, *(c)* mosques and *(d)* synagogues. [180740]

Fiona Mactaggart: Although this year the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) is funding one project that was initiated and is co-ordinated by a Christian group, the project is not of a religious nature and the CRE has not given financial assistance to any other church, temple, mosque, synagogue or other place of worship.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements the Commission for Racial Equality has made regarding the pensions of staff employed by racial equality councils; and if he will make a statement. [181162]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Commission for Racial Equality is reviewing the future of the scheme and hopes to be able to consult members shortly.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his response is to the recent Commission for Racial Equality report on racism in the Metropolitan Police. [180100]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Government is considering the Commission for Racial Equality's interim report into racism in the police service and will be working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities to co-ordinate the promotion of race equality across the police service. The final report is expected early in 2005.

Correspondence

Mr. Keith Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 17 March 2004, from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Withington, on behalf of his constituents Mohammad and Nasreen Afzal. [180703]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 30 June 2004.

Criminal Justice System Race Unit

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the *(a)* work and *(b)* achievements of the Criminal Justice System Race Unit. [176368]

Paul Goggins *[holding answer 8 June 2004]:* The Criminal Justice System Race Unit (CJS Race Unit) was announced in November 2002 to get beneath the surface of the Race and the Criminal Justice System figures (S.95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991) and understand the process through which discrimination may be occurring in the CJS. After consultation with stakeholders the Unit's priorities were identified as:

Stop and Search;

Developing Statistics which Drive Change;

Victim and Witness Satisfaction; and

Sentencing.

In recognition of the importance of working with local services, the Unit's work is underpinned by work with Local Criminal Justice Boards providing advice, guidance and support on race, confidence and community engagement issues.

Detailed are the Unit's achievements to date. The CJS Race Unit has:

Commissioned an overview report from the Institute for Criminal Policy research, King's College London, to be published with the next set of S.95 statistics, aimed at providing existing statistics to a broader audience and putting them into greater context;

Commenced a fundamental review of the Race and CJS statistics, which is being undertaken by consultants from Portsmouth university. The aim is to establish what statistics should be collected, how they should be collected and how to produce statistics which can effectively inform policy development and evaluation and provide a tool for local management. The review will be reporting later this year;

Worked closely with the Deputy Lord Chief Justice and Senior Presiding Judge to arrive at a specification for research into Courts to assess whether there is any quantitative evidence of different sentencing between people in different BME and white populations;

Run a series of community workshops with young people on the impact of stop and search and Recommendation 61 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, on relationships with the police;

Set up the Stop and Search Action Team which brings together key officials concerned with stop and search to ensure that there is no duplication of effort, resources are used to their best effect and, that a single message is communicated to police forces, and others;

Together with the Police Leadership and Powers Unit, developed interim guidance on the use of stop and search for forces with final guidance planned for December 2004;

Facilitated stop and search arrest rates featuring in the Police Performance and Assessment Framework;

Started practical work with selected police forces to reduce disproportionality;

Working with Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Federation to develop a toolkit for supervisors to ensure the effective management in the use of stop and search;

Worked to ensure that BME issues are integral to delivering CJS customer initiatives including walkthroughs and local communications; and

Commissioned joint research into the needs of young Black men as victims of crime.

Departmental Administration Costs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the administrative costs of his Department were in each financial year since 1996–97. [180381]

Fiona Mactaggart *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the administration cost figures that are shown in the Home Office Departmental Report 2004 (HODR) and the Home Office Annual Report 1999–2000 (HOAR) mentioned as follows. Copies of these reports are available in the Library.

HODR 2004—Section 6 Finance and Staffing, Table 5: Home Office Administration Cost, years 1998–99 to 2005–06, page 134. Figures calculated on a resource accounting basis.

HOAR 1999–2000—Section 5 Financial Reports, Running Costs, years 1994–95 to 2001–02, page 85. Figures calculated on a cash accounting basis. Running cost is the cash accounting term for administration costs.

Doorstep Selling

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications for police policy and practice of the recent Office of Fair Trading report on doorstep selling. [181703]

Ms Blears: The Office of Fair Trading Report on doorstep selling is currently under consideration and the Government's response is due within 90 days of receipt of the report (which came out on 12 May). That consideration includes examining with colleagues in other Government Departments and the police service the scope for reviewing existing police policy and procedures in this area.

Drug Treatment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the budget for the drug control programme was spent on *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* treatment in 2003–04. [182302]

Caroline Flint: Planned direct annual expenditure for tackling drugs in 2003–04 is set out in the table, broken down for each aim of the National Drug Strategy:

	£ million	*Percentage*
Protecting Young People	149	12
Reducing Supply	380	30.5
Safeguarding Communities	212	17.1
Drug Treatment	503	40.4
Total	1,244	—

Source:
Updated Drug Strategy 2002.

EU Accession States Entrants

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the number of people coming from the eastern and central European accession states since 1 May has differed from his prediction. [183090]

Mr. Browne: The Government did not make any predictions about the number of people coming to the UK from the accession states prior to 1 May.

Last week we published early management information from the Worker Registration Scheme, which proved that most media speculation about the numbers of new arrivals prior to enlargement was totally unfounded.

Just over 8,000 workers have come from the accession countries since 1 May and registered on the Worker Registration Scheme during May and June. In addition, at least 14,400 (60 per cent. of the total) citizens of the accession countries who were already in the UK before 1 May have taken the opportunity to register and legitimise their status. Early indications suggest that numbers coming in from abroad have peaked, with numbers for late June 25 per cent. down on those for late May.

Excessive Drinking

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his Department will take steps to make *(a)* breweries and *(b)* bars responsible for the cost of damage caused by excessive drinking, with particular reference to (i) street cleaning and (ii) police time. [179645]

Ms Blears: The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, published on 15 March 2004 recommended that the Government consult with the alcohol industry to draw up voluntary social responsibility schemes for producers and retailers. These schemes will incorporate a financial contribution from the industry towards the cost of the harms caused by excessive drinking. This contribution will go into a local fund and will be allocated according to local priorities, with a national fund for projects designed to tackle alcohol-related harm.

Departmental Refurbishment Costs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs his Department has incurred in refurbishing the Home Office estate in each financial year since 1996–97. [180379]

Fiona Mactaggart: *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2004, *Official Report* columns 1408W-1409W to the hon. member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Elfyn Llwyd). The information requested in respect of the years 1996–97 to 1998–99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Foreign Workers

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the Government's policy for dealing with foreign nationals working illegally in the UK. [182967]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 8 July 2004]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend, the Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) on 22 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1371W.

Identity Cards

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with other Government Departments on the potential uses of identity cards. [183092]

Mr. Browne: We are involved in a wide range of discussions across Government and with key stakeholders. In addition to the evidence I and my hon. Friend gave to the Home Affairs Select Committee, colleagues in Health, Education and the Department for Work and Pensions also gave evidence showing how ID cards could simplify access to services and help reduce fraud.

Immigration

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the representatives of Mr. Shams Uddin Ahmed, Ref: A534268, were informed in June that no decision had been reached regarding Mr. Ahmed's application for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom in the light of the letter from the Minister of State to the hon. Member for Christchurch dated 28 April 2004. [182019]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* The Immigration and Nationality Enquiry Bureau (INEB) use the General Case Information Database (GCID) when answering telephone application inquiries. Unfortunately, GCID had not been updated with the decision at the time the representatives called.

On 1 July, a letter was sent to Mr. Ahmed's representatives apologising for both the delay and the misleading information given in response.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was taken to grant Mr. Shams Uddin Ahmed, Ref: A534268, leave to remain in the United Kingdom; and by whom it was taken. [182020]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* Mr. Ahmed was granted indefinite leave to remain by the Managed Migration Directorate on 1 July 2004.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department intends to provide an estimate of the number of illegal immigrants in the United Kingdom. [182235]

Mr. Browne *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* There is currently no method for estimating the number of illegal immigrants in the UK. The Government have commissioned research into the methods used in other countries to estimate the size of their illegal populations in order to define methods appropriate for the UK. Work on this is ongoing.

The work required is challenging because, by definition, illegal migrants fall outside of official statistics and are therefore difficult to measure. People illegally present in the UK are also motivated to ensure they remain hidden, which is a challenge to conducting research.

Market Testing

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of each market test process in 1997. [179474]

Fiona Mactaggart: Information on the cost of each market test process in 1997 is not held centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

National Asylum Support Service

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the staff-customer ratio is for those contacting or receiving services from the National Asylum Support Service, broken down by *(a)* all staff, *(b)* staff dealing with customers face-to-face, *(c)* call centre staff and *(d)* staff processing claims without customer contact. [182533]

Mr. Browne: There are currently 1,308 staff in the National Asylum Support Service, including temporary staff. Of these, 206 staff primarily deal with customers face-to-face. There are eight dedicated staff working in the National Asylum Support Service Telephone Enquiry Bureau. It is not possible to provide details of staff processing claims without customer contact as most will have some contact by telephone with customers at some point.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his relations with the National Neighbourhood Watch Association. [183100]

Ms Blears: The Home Office has worked in partnership with the National Neighbourhood Watch Association (NNWA) for a number of years. And, in 2003, provided a grant of £350,000 to help them out with their financial difficulties.

It recently came to light though that the NNWA has, without authorisation, registered the Neighbourhood Watch name and logos as its own trademarks. These are Crown copyright and public assets. We are taking steps to recover the name and logos to public ownership.

Overseas Doctors

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reform the immigration

procedures for doctors from overseas to enable those who wish to work and train in the UK to do so more quickly. [179811]

Mr. Browne: There are currently no plans to change procedures specifically for the admission to the UK of overseas doctors. Doctors from outside the European economic area who wish to work in the UK normally require a work permit or permission to work through the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP).

All doctor posts are deemed in shortage which means Work Permit (UK) applies a simplified work permit application procedure for these posts. In the period April 2003 to March 2004 4,377 work permits were approved for a range of posts requiring doctors.

The HSMP scheme is a points based scheme designed to allow individuals with exceptional personal skill and experience to come to or remain in the UK to seek and take up work. In the period April 2003 to March 2004 699 HSMP applications were approved for a range of posts requiring doctors.

In addition, the immigration rules also make separate provision for postgraduate doctors to come to the United Kingdom to continue their training without requiring a work permit.

Police

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on police efficiency of the obligation upon police officers to be available for jury service, as set out in the Criminal Justice Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [181752]

Ms Blears: The reform of the jury service provisions was a recommendation contained in Lord Justice Auld's Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales. Jury service is an extremely important civic duty. For too long a large number of people have been excused from serving on a jury because of their profession or position in society. The changes contained in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 send a clear message that serving the community as a juror is the responsibility of everyone. Expanding the pool of potential jurors will ensure that juries better reflect the communities from which they are drawn and this in turn should improve public confidence in the criminal justice system.

No formal assessment has been conducted of the effect of these measures on police efficiency. However, we expect that the guidance issued to the Jury Central Summoning Bureau staff will allow individual officers who are summoned to defer jury service where there are good operational or personal reasons for doing so.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether extra resources will be made available to police forces to help facilitate the development of forces' intelligence IT systems and the smooth transfer of data to a national database. [181454]

Caroline Flint: In my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's response to the House on 22 June 2004, following publication of Sir Michael Bichard's report he made it clear that the Government shall introduce a national intelligence system. The Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and the Home Office to take this work forward. This will include building upon existing in force and cross force systems.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will make a statement on the intended reduction of Stage 2 police probationer training from 15 weeks to 12 weeks; [168438]

(2) for what reason Stage 2 police probationer training is being reduced from 15 weeks to 12 weeks; [168439]

(3) what changes will be made to Stage 2 police probationer training to facilitate the intended reduction of training from 15 weeks to 12 weeks; [168440]

(4) which aspects of Stage 2 police probationer training will receive less time as a result of the intended reduction Stage 2 probationer training from 15 weeks to 12 weeks. [168441]

Ms Blears: The reduction of Stage 2 of police probationer training has taken place within the context of discussions with Centrex over their budget for 2004–05. Representatives of Centrex, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and force training managers considered the length of Stage 2 in detail and concluded that 12 weeks would be sufficient to impart a fully comprehensive probationer training programme. I am satisfied that the reduction in length of Stage 2 will in no way affect the quality of the programme.

The 12 week programme will embrace the principles of practice-based learning and community involvement, and focus on the role and context of policing. In response to force feedback, there will be intakes every six weeks. There will be no general increase of class size and no change in the probationer-to-trainer ratio.

The content of the law aspects of the course has been thoroughly reviewed in consultation with force training managers to remove any duplication of teaching. Some material has been changed from traditional classroom training to self-study.

The relatively small amount of basic public order training delivered to new recruits will be removed, but forces will continue to deliver public order training during Stage 3. Extensive training is available for those officers who choose to specialise in public order. This change is fully supported by force training managers.

Case file preparation will be removed as forces agree that probationers should focus their initial training on the basic principles of evidence gathering, leaving the technical aspects of case file preparation to Stage 3. However, training on statements will be retained.

Passing out parades will be withdrawn, as the philosophy of the modernised, restructured programme is to encourage probationers to take greater personal responsibility for their development, and in particular their fitness.

All of these changes have been made in consultation with key stakeholders, who are content that the approach taken will not impact negatively on the provision of Stage 2 probationer training. The programme will still impart all the essential components of the 15 week course.

A new probationer training programme which is under development, will see a shift away from residential training to learning in the workplace and focus on delivery in the community. These new methods of delivering recruit training have been successfully piloted in five forces.

Post Mortems

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of deaths in UK hospitals were followed by post mortems in each of the last 10 years. [166851]

Paul Goggins: Figures on place of death are collected at death registration. Most post mortems are ordered by coroners but a small proportion (about three per cent. all post mortems in England and Wales) are ordered by doctors. Information on post mortems carried out at the request of doctors is not collected at death registration in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In England and Wales information collected at death registration on post mortems ordered by doctors has been of variable quality during the last ten years. The impact on overall proportions of deaths with a post mortem will be small. The table as follows provides the best available estimate of the proportion of deaths in UK hospitals which were followed by a post mortem.

Number of deaths in hospitals[1] and the percentage which were followed by a post mortem examination[2], United Kingdom, 1993 to 2002[3]

	Number of deaths in hospitals	*Percentage of deaths in hospitals which were followed by a post mortem examination*
1993	343,038	18.6
1994	325,574	18.0
1995	338,978	17.1
1996	338,036	17.3
1997	333,360	18.4
1998	335,669	18.3
1999	338,816	18.4
2000	333,164	19.3
2001	333,228	18.2
2002	340,294	17.3

[1] Number of deaths which occurred in general and psychiatric hospitals in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include all deaths which occurred in hospital where a post mortem was ordered by either a doctor or a coroner. Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland include deaths which occurred in hospital where the post mortem was ordered by a procurator fiscal or coroner, figures for post mortems ordered by doctors are not available.

[3] Data are for deaths occurring per calendar year for England and Wales, and deaths registered per calendar year for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office Scotland, and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Active Communities Directorate

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department ensures that staff and volunteers in organisations which receive grants from *(a)* the Active Communities Directorate, *(b)* the Charities Unit and *(c)* the Civil Renewal Unit, where those organisations work with children, are subject to Criminal Record checks; and whether grants are conditional on such checks being completed. [182006]

Fiona Mactaggart: Obtaining Criminal Record checks for staff and volunteers is not a universal condition of all grants made by the Active Communities Directorate. Such checks are routinely carried out in the small number of organisations we currently fund that work with children.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list organisations that have received grants from *(a)* the Active Communities Directorate, *(b)* the Charities Unit and *(c)* the Civil Renewal Unit in each year since their inception; and what the value was of each grant received; [182007]

(2) if he will place in the Library a list of organisations which have received grants from *(a)* the Active Communities Directorate, *(b)* the Charities Unit and *(c)* the Civil Renewal Unit in each of the last two years, including (i) the level of grant, (ii) the specific project for which the organisation received funding and (iii) the results of any evaluation of the projects which have received funding. [182008]

Fiona Mactaggart: Last year, the work of the Active Community Unit was expanded to incorporate a Charities Unit and a Civil Renewal Unit in a new Active Communities Directorate.

A list of organisations and the amounts of grant they received from the Active Communities Directorate, including the Civil Renewal Unit, since their inception, has been placed in the Library. The Charities Unit made no grants.

For details on grants made by the former Active Community Unit, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 6 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 562W.

Widows and Widowers

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many widows or widowers waited for *(a)* an inquest and *(b)* for the registrar's form to be sent after the inquest in each year from 1997 to 2002, broken down by periods of three months. [146042]

Paul Goggins: Unfortunately the information requested is not held centrally.

Work Permits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued in 2003. [183103]

Mr. Browne: 145,351 work permits were issued in the calendar year 2003, of which 73,866 were permissions given to foreign nationals already in the UK in another capacity.

Over 25,000 applications for work permits were refused in the same period.

Yarl's Wood

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the inquiry into the fire at Yarl's Wood to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [181817]

Mr. Browne: We expect Stephen Shaw's inquiry into the events at Yarl's Wood on 14–15 February 2002 to be completed this summer. We will wish to consider the reports findings very carefully, but I can give assurance that we will arrange for it to be published as soon as possible following its receipt.

DEFENCE

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 138W, whether the UK Government and US Administration have concluded that, in the light of circumstances prevailing at this time, the US should base chemical and biological counter-weapon materials on UK territory; [182856]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 150W, whether the UK Government and US Administration have concluded, in the light of circumstances prevailing at this time, that US aircraft armed with nuclear weapons may use UK airspace. [182857]

Mr. Hoon: I am withholding this information under Exemption 1 (Defence, security and international relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Research and Development

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what civil projects have benefited from his Department's research and development support for science, engineering and technology since 1997. [182014]

Mr. Ingram: Through the Defence Industrial Policy, the Ministry of Defence is committed to co-sponsoring science and technology research that may bring benefits to both civil and defence applications. MOD has also developed new procurement processes and commercial conditions to enable fuller exploitation of the technology development it funds, both for Defence and in the civil sector.

There is a multitude of ways in which civil projects have benefited from MOD's support for science, engineering and technology since 1997. These include direct funding, access to research and access to MOD's extensive research facilities. MOD also works closely with the DTI in co-funding aerospace projects with the DTI Civil Aerospace and Demonstration Programme, and with DTI and the Research Councils through the setting up of Defence and Aerospace Research Partnerships.

There are many specific examples of the civil sector benefiting from MOD's research and development support, including the use of advanced composite materials by Airbus in the new A380, QinetiQ's development of a medical system to aid cancer treatment, and the licensed transfer of military aircrew helmet materials technology for use by a Cornish company that manufactures marine safety helmets.

A large number of companies have been assisted by the Defence Diversification Agency, to varying degrees.

Eurofighter Typhoon

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions *(a)* he, *(b)* ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have met (i) members of the Saudi Arabian (A) Government and (B) Royal family and (ii) representatives of BAE Systems to discuss the possibility of selling Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft ordered for the Royal Air Force to Saudi Arabia; where and when these meetings took place; and if he will make a statement. [181850]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) has a long-standing interest in developments in Royal Air Force operational doctrine, aircraft and weapons systems, and officials from both countries frequently discuss such developments. These discussions have included the role and performance of Eurofighter Typhoon. This interest on the part of the RSAF in Typhoon has also been discussed at a range of meetings between MOD officials and BAE Systems representatives. Information on the dates and locations of such meetings is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Defence Ministers have held no such discussions with the Saudi Arabian Government or Royal Family, or with representatives of BAE Systems.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 24 May 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1346–7W, on Eurofighter, what stage discussions regarding the possibility of selling Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft ordered for the Royal Air Force to other countries without their first being delivered to the RAF have reached; whether these Typhoon aircraft would come from *(a)* Tranche 1 and *(b)* Tranche 2 of production for the RAF; whether discussions have taken place with (i) Singapore, (ii) Saudi Arabia, (iii) Austria, (iv) South Korea and (v) Switzerland; and if he will make a statement. [181954]

Mr. Ingram: As indicated by my earlier reply, RAF delivery schedules for Typhoon might be adjusted in order to provide for export of the aircraft. Any such adjustment would take into account the needs of the RAF as well as the benefits of export orders and would have to be made in agreement with our international partners. As part of our normal support for defence exports, we have had discussions with a number of countries regarding Typhoon. The details of these discussions are sensitive and I am withholding the information under Section 1b of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. Austria has already signed an order for 18 Typhoon, which industry in the United Kingdom and in our partner nations are working together to fulfil. Announcements will be made as and when further export orders are confirmed.

Export Support

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 351W, what the reasons were for the increased expenditure of the export support teams. [182565]

Mr. Ingram: The increased expenditure for the Export Support Team figures for 2003–04 compared with the previous year was due largely to the inclusion of ammunition, which was charged to single service budgets in previous years. As indicated in the previous answer, costs for 2001–02 were not recorded on a basis fully comparable with later years for technical reasons.

Gibraltar

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what future military role he plans for Gibraltar. [182813]

Mr. Ingram: There are no plans to change Gibraltar's current military role, which centres on providing a forward mounting base and other facilities to support overseas operations. This role will continue to be kept under regular review.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has officially to acknowledge Gibraltar's contribution during the second world war. [182822]

Mr. Ingram: The Government will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war on 10 July 2005. The events on that day will recognise the contribution of all those, service and civilian, home and overseas, who took part in the war. There are no separate plans concerning Gibraltar's contribution during world war 2.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Gibraltar Regiment. [182823]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1528W.

Hawk 128

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates his Department's Investment Approvals Board considered the decision to meet the Ministry of Defence's advanced jet trainer requirement through the purchase from BAE Systems of Hawk 128 aircraft. [182255]

Mr. Ingram: The Investment Approvals Board met to consider the business case for the advanced jet trainer on the following dates in 2003: 12 May, 27 May and 4 June.

HMP3 Fleet

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the anticipated in-service date is for the HMP3 fleet; and whether he expects it to be achieved within the specified time scale. [180644]

Mr. Ingram: The HMP3 programme is on schedule to meet the Harrier GR9/T12 in-service date of September 2006.

HMS Trafalgar

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the grounding of HMS Trafalgar in November 2002 caused damage to the submarine's nuclear reactor; whether the boat was carrying a nuclear weapon at the time; and if he will make statement. [182958]

Mr. Ingram: No damage was caused to HMS Trafalgar's nuclear reactor as a result of the grounding incident in November 2002. The Strategic Defence Review made clear that Trident is the UK's only nuclear weapon. It is not carried onboard Trafalgar Class submarines.

Hooding

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the orders given to UK soldiers regarding the use of hoods after arrest and during detention of military combatants in Iraq. [178711]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 14 June 2004]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 721W, to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood).

Iraq

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* women and *(b)* prisoners under 18 years of age are in detention in Iraq. [175774]

Mr. Ingram: As of 7 July 2004, no women and one internee under 18 years of age were being held in the UK detention facility at Shaibah in Iraq.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will reply to the question from the hon. Member for Camarthen East and Dinefwr of 1 March 2004, ref 158865, on the exhumation of bodies. [177582]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 7 June 2004]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 358W.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a summary of all cases involving alleged violence to Iraqi individuals by British forces, including *(a)* the incident complained of, *(b)* who made the complaint, *(c)* evidence considered, *(d)* the detailed findings and conclusions and *(e)* which have ended in ruling of no case to answer. [179413]

Mr. Ingram: 27 cases involving alleged violence to Iraqi individuals by British forces that have been subject to investigation by Service Police have so far concluded that there was no case to answer. 23 of these relate to operational incidents and four to allegations involving detention. A formal complaint is not a prerequisite for a Service Police investigation. I am withholding detailed information on specific cases under Section 4 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what immunities will be enjoyed by UK armed forces operating in Iraq following the transfer of sovereignty in that country; and if he will make a statement. [179869]

Mr. Ingram: A new version of Coalition Provisional Authority Order 17, agreed by the Iraqi Government, grants the Multinational Force in Iraq immunity from Iraqi jurisdiction.

The order may be viewed at www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/index.html.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his reply to the Question reference 174620, on Iraq (detainees), what guidance the Standard Operating Instruction contained on the use of hoods on apprehended persons prior to its amendment on 30 September 2003. [182357]

Mr. Ingram *(holding answer 5 July 2004)*: Prior to the amendment made on 30 September 2003, the Standard Operating Instruction on the Policy for Apprehending, Handling and Processing of Detainees and Internees made no reference to the use of hoods.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 144–45W, on Iraq, how many visits have been made by members of the International Committee of the Red Cross to places of detention administered by the UK in Iraq; on what dates the visits were made; and where the visits were to. [182576]

Mr. Ingram: The only United Kingdom detention facility is the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility at Shaibah. Since its opening on 20 December 2003 there have been three visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross: 10–12 February 2004; 1–3 April and 17–19 May.

Joint Combat Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place between the Integrated Project Teams for the Carriers and the Future Joint Combat Aircraft about the requirement for the JCA. [182385]

Mr. Ingram: There is continuous liaison between the two Integrated Project Teams as part of routine business. This includes extensive information sharing and regular joint planning meetings to manage the ship and air interface.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterparts on the timescale for the Future Joint Combat Aircraft project. [182387]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 June 2004 (*Official Report*, column 1177W) to my hon. Friend the Member for Inverness East, Nairn and Lochabar (Mr Stewart). Regular discussions with the US Administration include the timescale for the Future Joint Combat Aircraft project.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the export potential of the Eurofighter/Typhoon. [182389]

Mr. Ingram: We believe Eurofighter Typhoon is a world-class aircraft with strong export potential. The Defence Export Services Organisation of the Ministry of Defence is fully involved in supporting United Kingdom industry's efforts to promote this aircraft. The first order from outside the partner nations has been placed by Austria, and a number of other countries have expressed an interest in ordering the aircraft.

Military Vehicles (Protective Hardening)

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what programme he has for installing armour or protective hardening to the cabs and undersides of military and logistics vehicles on foreign duty in areas of potential terrorist attack. [182104]

Mr. Ingram: Armoured vehicles are designed to provide protection against a range of threats. Where the operational situation requires, additional protection can be, and is, added to enhance the level of protection provided. The appliqué armour used on Challenger 2 and Warrior when deployed on operations is an example of this. For in-service logistic vehicles, the provision of protection is addressed on a case by case basis. Future logistic fleets will be designed to take appliqué armour or riot protection when required.

PFI Projects (Environmental Impact)

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible create the minimum of environmental damage; [181288]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* sustainability and *(b)* environmental impacts of private finance initiative projects and the capacity of the PFI process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects; [181289]

(3) what plans he has to make private finance initiative contracts more *(a)* accountable and *(b)* transparent in terms of their environmental sustainability. [181290]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has integrated sustainable development criteria into its procurement activity for the majority of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects on the defence estate.

No specific Ministry of Defence assessment has been made of the sustainability and environmental impacts of PFI projects and the capacity of the PFI process to deliver environmentally sustainable projects. However, we ensure that all Ministry of Defence PFIs are compliant with the law and take into account the guidance on the use of environmental considerations in PFI contracts issued in July 2002 by the Office of Government Commerce, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Transport and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

As part of the Sustainable Development in Government initiative, all Ministry of Defence PFI projects with sustainable development criteria in the selection process are required to be accountable for, and to report on, their sustainable development impacts in accordance with Ministry of Defence reporting

requirements. This information will be included in the Ministry of Defence's first annual report on sustainable development, which will be published in the autumn.

Psychological Coercive Techniques

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) to what extent the UK armed forces *(a)* have used and *(b)* currently use psychological coercive techniques during their training; and whether such techniques have been used with any persons other than members of the UK armed forces during training; [179167]

(2) whether chartered psychologists *(a)* have assisted in the past and *(b)* are assisting the UK armed forces in the use or development of psychological coercive techniques. [179170]

Mr. Ingram: 'Psychological coercive techniques' is not a term recognised by the United Kingdom armed forces and is therefore not defined in our doctrine. No use is made of such techniques.

RAF Cottesmore

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total manpower cost is of the Harrier GR7 structures undertaken at RAF Cottesmore, including all indirect costs. [180649]

Mr. Ingram: The repair and maintenance of Harrier aircraft at RAF Cottesmore is undertaken by personnel from a number of different service units. The information is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of the Harrier integrated project team's support of spares for the pulse line at RAF Cottesmore to ensure no aircraft slippage owing to shortages. [181263]

Mr. Ingram: The Harrier Integrated Project Team provides logistic support to the entire Harrier GR7/T10 Departmental Fleet. The value of spares used on the pulse line at RAF Cottesmore is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Staff Cars

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the range of options for staff cars below Grade A available to officers of the armed forces is, giving the country of manufacture of each model. [181451]

Mr. Caplin: The range of options for staff cars below Grade A is as follows:

Grade B staff cars

Manufacturer	*Model*	*Country of manufacture*
United Kingdom:		
Ford	Mondeo 2.0L	Belgium
Vauxhall	Vectra 2.0L	Germany
Germany:		
Opel	Astra	Belgium/UK/Germany

Sudan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are in the Sudan; and in what role. [183393]

Mr. Ingram: The UK currently contributes two military personnel in Sudan. Both occupy a Chief of Staff post, one in the Verification and Monitoring Team and one in the Joint Military Commission in the Nuba Mountains.

UK Defence Markets

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment the Government has made of the rules governing access to UK defence markets by foreign-owned companies; and whether the Government plans to make changes to the rules. [182384]

Mr. Ingram: The Government has a strong interest in the success of the UK defence industry and in October 2002 we launched our Defence Industrial Policy aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of the UK defence industry while continuing to provide high quality capabilities for the Armed Forces at best value for money for the taxpayer. As we made clear in our Policy we are less concerned about the ownership of companies than where the technology is created, where the skills and the intellectual property reside, where the investment is made and where the jobs are sustained and created. We continue to work with the defence industry as we develop the implementation of the Policy.

UN Operations

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of *(a)* the British armed forces and *(b)* the British medical auxiliaries, broken down by rank, have been suspended from duty in Iraq as a result of activities that may have breached the Geneva conventions in respect of the treatment of detainees. [173339]

Mr. Ingram: None.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the incidence of *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual abuse of Iraqis by British personnel serving in Iraq. [173655]

Mr. Ingram: There have been no reports of rape. One case involving indecent assault has been referred for trial.

US-administered Places of Confinement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals employed directly or indirectly by his Department have duties which involve working in or visiting places of confinement administered by the US in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* Guantanamo Bay and *(d)* other places; and if he will make a statement. [181050]

Mr. Ingram: Three United Kingdom military personnel worked in Abu Ghraib prison (Iraq) from January 2004. One was withdrawn in March of this year, and the other two in April. Small teams also work in

Camp Bucca and Camp Cropper (both Iraq). I am not aware of anyone else directly or indirectly employed by the department who has specific duties involving working in or visiting places of confinement administered by the US in any of our current operational areas; although I am aware some officers have visited US facilities in the past.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

City Academies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* education trade unions about the city academy programme; and if he will make a statement. [181795]

Mr. Miliband: The Secretary of State for Education and Skills meets regularly with the Local Government Association and education trade unions to discuss a variety of issues.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his plans are for the expansion of city academies. [183630]

Mr. Miliband: The Secretary of State for Education and Skills announced on 8 July, as part of his five year strategy for children and learners, his plans for 200 Academies open or in the pipeline by 2010 in areas with inadequate existing secondary schools.

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Government have to amend the salaries of classroom assistants; how much the planned changes will cost; and whether the Government plan to give schools extra funding to meet the costs of those changes. [182874]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* Pay and contractual arrangements of school support staff are matters for local determination: the Government believe that this is the best way of ensuring a flexible system that can respond to local needs and circumstances. Many local authorities have reviewed or are reviewing school support staff pay in the light of the Single Status Agreement introduced by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services from 1 April 1997 to harmonise the pay and conditions of all local authority staff.

In October 2003, the Secretary of State announced a package of measures that will restore stability to the school funding system, including the introduction of a 4 per cent. minimum per pupil guarantee for schools. In addition to increases in general funding, for 2004–05 £279 million for support staff salaries is included in the new School Development Grant, worth £647 million in total. Schools are free to spend their School Development Grant on any purpose that supports improvements in teaching and learning.

Copeland Schools

Dr. Jack Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total capital expenditure in all schools in Copeland has been since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [182804]

Mr. Miliband: Government support for capital investment in school buildings will reach £5.1 billion in 2005–06. This is compared to £0.7 billion that was available in 1996–97. Much of our capital support is allocated to schools and local education authorities (LEAs) by formula, and they decide how to invest in line with their asset management plans. The Department does not have complete information about capital investment at constituency level. The following table sets out the capital support given by the Government to Cumbria LEA since 1997–98, in total and by programme, including devolved formula capital grants which go direct to schools.

Capital allocations : Cumbria LEA and schools

£000

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Assistance with AMPs	—	—	*101*	—	—	—	—
VA formulaic allocations	—	—	—	—	110	638	779
Basic need	3,450	3,252	3,720	4,062	4,220	2,833	2,655
Class size initiative	—	119	722	467	—	—	—
Condition	—	—	—	—	2,394	3,449	4,485
Devolved formula	—	—	—	4,456	3,628	5,502	8,204
Early Excellence Centre	—	—	—	30	—	—	—
Energy	—	119	—	—	—	—	—
Modernisation LEA	—	—	—	—	—	1,527	2,564
Modernisation VA	—	—	—	—	—	309	772
NDS 1	598	—	—	—	—	—	—
NDS 2	—	1,344	—	—	—	—	—
NDS 3	—	—	2,648	—	—	—	—
NDS 4	—	—	—	6,062	—	—	—
Outside toilets	—	143	31	—	—	—	—
School labs	—	—	—	291	291	—	—
School security	136	171	207	208	146	126	—
Schools access initiative	30	70	150	280	438	707	916
Schools Renewal Challenge Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Secondary Learning Support Units	—	—	—	112	122	157	—
Seed challenge	—	—	—	290	329	580	578
Specialist schools	—	—	—	100	300	100	—
Staff workspace	—	—	—	—	—	108	240

Capital allocations : Cumbria LEA and schools

£000

	1997–98	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Supplementary credit approvals	173	416	575	451	27	341	—
Supplementary NDS for VA Schools	—	—	—	181	5	—	—
Targeted capital funding	—	—	—	—	260	408	—
Teaching environments for the future	—	—	—	—	—	—	650
Voluntary Aided School Grant	533	616	758	654	993	1,448	—
Total	4,920	6,250	8,912	17,644	13,263	18,233	21,843

To date we have allocated £20.5 million in 2004–05 and £9.3 million in 2005–06.

Dentistry

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many deans of English dental schools Ministers and senior civil servants have met in the last six months to discuss the issue of the NHS dental workforce review. [181639]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Deans of dental schools are represented on the Dental Education Workforce Committee, which met in January 2004. Senior officials are in regular discussion with representatives of dental schools, including deans. In the last six months, senior officials have visited the Eastman Dental Hospital, Guy's, Kings and St. Thomas' Dental Institute and Kings College London Dental Schools, the Royal London Dental School, Manchester Dental School and Birmingham Dental School. Discussions have ranged over a number of issues, including dental workforce and the dental workforce review. Ministers have not met with deans to discuss the dental workforce review.

Education Maintenance Allowances

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the differences in entitlement rules for education maintenance allowances are between areas that were part of the pilot schemes and the rest of England and Wales; and if he will remove those differences. [182782]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EMA pilot in England tested different variants of EMA and all these arrangements stop when the national scheme becomes fully operational. A uniform set of eligibility criteria will apply to pilot and non-pilot areas under the national scheme. The rules for the national scheme are more generous than for most of the pilots, with more families from low-income families being entitled to the full amount.

Wales will launch its own EMA scheme in September 2004. The Welsh EMA will mirror the eligibility criteria of the English scheme.

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the funding allocation for the 2003 to 2006 spending review period was allocated to the national roll-out of education maintenance allowances in *(a)* school sixth forms, *(b)* sixth form colleges and *(c)* further education colleges. [182935]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 8 July 2004]*: The principal of the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme is to fund the student and not the institution. The Department estimates the overall cost for the next three financial years to be:

	£ million
2004–05	275
2005–06	403
2006–07	476

For 2004/05 £19 million of the total budget is being made available to schools and colleges to help with the implementation and delivery of the scheme in the first year.

Exemplar Design Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his Answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 710W, what estimate he has made of the cost of building each of the exemplar designs; and which designs have been adopted by local education authorities as part of their bid. [182505]

Mr. Miliband: There were 11 exemplar designs developed, five for secondary, five for primary and one all-through school. Each of the schemes were costed by the design teams all of which included Q.S. practices experienced in schools design. The costs were all compared with the DfES cost guidelines normalised to a location factor of one. The DfES cost guideline for a 1,150 pupil secondary school (6 FE and 250 sixth form) was £17,198,000 excluding any allowance for site related abnormal costs. The five secondary designs ranged between £16,060,000 and £16,674,563. The DfES cost guideline for a 2 FE Primary School with 26 FTE Nursery was £4,030,000. The five primary designs ranged between £3,736,000 and £4,053,000. The DfES cost guideline for a primary and secondary school (as described) combined was £21,038,000, the exemplar design was £20,914,000. All these costs are detailed in the 'Exemplar Designs'—concepts and ideas publication available on the website at www.teachernet.gov.uk/exemplars.

All local education authorities in the Pathfinder and First Wave authorities have used the material published on all the exemplar designs in developing their thinking on education and design. It is too early to say whether any authority plans to adopt a specific design and develop it for one or more sites in their bid.

Failing Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Coventry have been classified as failing in each year since 1996. [182434]

Mr. Miliband: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, David Bell, will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of his letter in the Library.

FE Colleges

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places are being made available for 14–16 year olds in further education colleges in 2004–05, broken down by local education authority area; and what the figures were in 2003–04. [183443]

Alan Johnson: The Department does not make specific provision for 14–16 year olds to attend further education colleges and therefore there are no estimates on the number of places to be made available in 2004–05.

The most comprehensive data which is available arises from the Increased Flexibility for 14–16 year olds programme (IFP). In September 2003 there were around 90,000 14–16 year olds participating in this programme, of which about 65 per cent. were being taught in colleges of further education for part of the week.

It is anticipated that participation in the Increased Flexibility programme in 2004–05 will be similar to that for 2003–04.

Former Grant-maintained Schools

Mr. Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding each formerly grant maintained school has received in each year since 1995. [167561]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCSEs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children obtained five A*–C GCSE passes in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* ethnic origin, *(b)* social class and *(c)* gender. [183213]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon on 4 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1424W.

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of pupils achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE in state schools in Wansdyke constituency in each year since 1997. [182501]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is as follows.

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving five or more grades A–C at GCSE/GNVQ*

Academic year	*Wansdyke*	*England*
1997	50.2	45.1
1998	48.8	46.3
1999	50.1	47.9
2000	55.2	49.2
2001	56.0	50.0
2002	57.7	51.6
2003	61.2	52.9

[1] GCSE/GNVQ results are reported as standard as the results of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August and therefore reaching the end of compulsory education at the end of the school year.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether post-16 education undertaken by city academies is included within the scope of the strategic area reviews being undertaken by the Learning and Skills Council. [183211]

Mr. Miliband: All post-16 education within a local Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) area is covered by strategic area reviews. As academies are not directly funded by the Learning and Skills Council a protocol has been developed between the Department and the LSC for working together and for ensuring that information is shared effectively. The protocol encourages new academy partnerships to share information with the relevant local LSC in the early stages of the project. Expressions of interest for new academy projects are circulated to the national and relevant local LSC for comment before being submitted to Ministers for approval. And the national and local LSC is notified when Ministers approve funding for a new academy.

Local Education Partnerships

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he held with *(a)* the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the operation of arm's length management organisations and *(b)* the Department of Health on the operation of local improvement finance trusts before establishing local education partnerships. [173148]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 13 May 2004]*: My officials routinely discuss the operation of a range of commercial relationships with colleagues in other departments, including arms-length management organisations and local improvement finance trusts. Furthermore, the Department makes use of its relationship with Partnerships UK to keep abreast of lessons learnt and best practice in this area of policy.

Overseas Students

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of bogus applications from overseas students to universities in each year since 1997; [178212]

(2) how many applications to university have been made by overseas students in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin. [178332]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of applications from overseas students by country of origin is available from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) at www.ucas.ac.uk. Information on the number of these applications which are bogus is not available. Although UCAS has a Verification Unit which detects and records fraudulent applications, their available figures cover all UK-domiciled and overseas students in total, and do not identify overseas students separately.

Physical Education

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what sports are judged inappropriate by the Joint Council for General Qualification for the practical aspect of GCSE and A Level physical education. [182424]

Mr. Miliband: I understand that the Joint Council for Qualifications, which represents and coordinates the work of the unitary awarding bodies, AQA, Edexcel and OCR, has agreed not to permit, for the practical elements of GCSE and A Level physical education, sports such as boxing which they regard as involving the intention to cause injury.

Plagiarism Advisory Service

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Plagiarism Advisory Service. [183628]

Alan Johnson: I have had no discussions with the Plagiarism Advisory Service. However, I am aware that this service, set up by the Joint Information Systems Committee, provides valuable advice, guidance and tools for institutions, academic staff and students in the area of plagiarism.

Prisons (Education)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the prison population are studying for qualifications at *(a)* Level 1, *(b)* Level 2 and *(c)* Level 3. [182776]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We hold information centrally on prisoner achievement against national targets: for achievements in "Skills for Life" (literacy, language and numeracy) up to Level 2 and in vocational qualifications which prepare them for work. The latter are not recorded by level. Information on achievements is not held centrally on an individual prisoner basis.

Since 1 April 2004 prisoners have achieved 3,505 "Skills for Life" qualifications at Level 1 and 2,254 qualifications at Level 2. They have also achieved 22,928 work skills.

In 2003–04, prisoners achieved 46,517 "Skills for Life" qualifications across all levels against a target of 36,631, and 109,237 work skills.

These figures cannot be expressed as a proportion of annual throughput, as overall information on prisoner participation and achievement in education is collected at establishment level in terms of the overall number of qualifications gained.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many prisoners are studying for degrees. [182777]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 872 prisoners registered for Open University courses in 2003–04.

Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list private finance initiative contracts operating in schools in England, broken down by local authority area, indicating in each case *(a)* the contractor, *(b)* the value of the contract, *(c)* whether it is for construction or maintenance and *(d)* the expected completion date for construction contracts. [183007]

Mr. Miliband: The Department publishes a document called the Project List which lists all the schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects that are currently in procurement, under construction or operational. The projects are listed by local educational authority area, the nature of the project and, where the contract has been signed, details of the contractor, the value of the contract in terms of PFI credits and the completion date. This list is updated on a regular basis and can be accessed via the website www.teachernet.gov.uk/pfi.

School Building

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on discussions with the *(a)* Church of England and *(b)* Roman Catholic Church on Building Schools for the Future. [182508]

Mr. Miliband: Discussions with both Churches are continuing. We have set up a working group, which will meet later this month, to look in particular at the funding of Voluntary Aided schools in Building Schools for the Future.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 711W, on schools (capital investment), who is responsible for determining the procurement route under Building Schools for the Future. [182512]

Mr. Miliband: In line with Government policy (The Treasury Green Book and Meeting Investment Challenge) the procurement route is determined on the basis of value for money. The Local Education Partnership (LEP) has to submit a business case in support of the procurement route chosen that is then scrutinised by Partnership for Schools and DfES to ensure value for money.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 711W, on schools (capital investment), what mechanism is in place to manage potential conflicts of interest when Partnership for Schools is both monitoring local education authorities and acting as a director of and equity participant in a Local Education Partnership. [182514]

Mr. Miliband: Partnerships for Schools will be an investor in a Local Education Partnership (LEP), commercially incentivised along with the local education authority and the private sector partner to

ensure that the LEP takes forward proposals that meet both local requirements and national programme objectives. As a non-departmental public body (NDPB), Partnerships for Schools will only act in the interests of the public sector—and by being a co-investor along with local authorities in LEPs, its interests will consist solely of furthering national or local programme objectives. No conflicts of interest are therefore anticipated.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 710W, on schools (capital investment), who will be responsible for monitoring the cost-effectiveness of the building programme. [182516]

Mr. Miliband: The Local Education Partnership (LEP) is a vehicle being developed to deliver Building Schools for the Future at a local level. Its joint venture partners are incentivised to make sure that the building programme is delivering value for money since Partnership for Schools will be able to monitor all bid prices and benchmark them against market norms. Value for money is achieved because any work by the LEP is contingent upon price and quality performance as outlined in the Strategic Partnering Agreement and compulsory periodic benchmarking.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimates have been made of the running costs of the Partnership for Schools. [172905]

Mr. Miliband: Partnership for Schools is a company limited by shares and a non-departmental public body established on 2 April 2004 to deliver the Building Schools for the Future programme. In 2005–06, this programme will invest around £2 billion in renewing the English secondary schools estate.

The forecast running costs are as follows:

	£ million
2004–05	10
2005–06	9.5
2006–07	9.8

The estimates for 05–06 and 06–07 are based on 04–05 activity with an estimate for inflation, and are indicative as Building Schools for the Future itself is still being developed. In particular, work on the creation of local education partnerships is still subject to consultation with stakeholders.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the expected life of local education partnerships is where they do not take an equity stake in schools. [172907]

Mr. Miliband: The local education partnership (LEP) will be the special purpose vehicle set up for the procurement of schools buildings and maintenance contracts let within Building Schools for the Future (BSF). The expected life of the local education partnerships is expected to be around 10–15 years, regardless of the quantum of equity held by the LEP in the underlying contracts.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which organisations and individuals have expressed interest in participating in local education partnerships as private sector partners. [172964]

Mr. Miliband: There have been no formal expressions of interest as the procurement process for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects is not yet under way. However, a large range of private sector entities have responded either formally or informally, and on their own account or through representative bodies, to the DfES/PfS consultation paper on local education partnerships and there has been a range of meetings with public and private sector BSF stakeholders.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons Partnership for Schools has been established as a non-departmental public body. [182511]

Mr. Miliband: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) represents the most complete investment in school buildings infrastructure ever seen in England, with around a projected spend of £2.2 billion in its first year 2005–06.

In order to create a strong focus for change in the way that school buildings and infrastructure are obtained, introducing private sector disciplines, developing and retaining specialist procurement knowledge and allowing the DfES to concentrate on its policy role, at a national level the best delivery vehicle is a national procurement body. Partnerships for Schools(PfS) has been set up as a non-departmental public body (NDPB) to fulfil these challenges and to be the dedicated BSF delivery arm.

PfS has been set up as an Executive NDPB to give it the ability to employ its own staff, responsibility for its own budget and a focused mission while at the same time ensuring that there is a clear framework for achieving proper standards of propriety and accountability as though it was a Government Department.

PfS will work with local procuring agencies to set up Local Education Partnerships (LEPs) with which the procuring agencies would have strategic partnership agreements. PfS will facilitate strategic planning, develop PFI and PPP models for schools infrastructure and reduce transaction costs relative to the value of the investment procured. This in turn will help to provide a steady flow of school projects for the private sector and PfS will offer the opportunities to reduce the unit costs of schools projects.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent in each Lancashire district on special educational need provision in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [181106]

Mr. Miliband: The available information is contained within the following table.

Planned net spend on special educational needs provision

£

	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04
SEN element of schools budget	—	—	16,455,000
SEN element of LEA budget	—	—	5,567,000
Total central spend by LEAs on SEN	20,326,000	15,163,000	—
ISB for special schools	23,479,000	25,233,000	26,969,000
Funding delegated to primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN"	39,021,000	46,271,000	50,357,000
Total budget for special educational needs provision	82,826,000	86,666,000	99,347,000

Notes:

1. The data are taken from Lancashire LEA's Section 52 Budget Statements submitted to the DfES. S52 is collected at local authority level not district level and consequently the figures provided are for Lancashire LEA.
2. The layout of Table 1 of the budget statement in 2003–04 was different to the layout used in previous years and consequently for financial years 2001–02 and 2002–03 the spend by LEAs on SEN was not separated out into the schools budget and LEA budget. For 2001–02 and 2002–03 the total central spend by LEAs on SEN is recorded on lines 1.4.1 to 1.4.4, 1.4.7 to 1.4.9 and 1.9 from table 1 of the S52 budget statement.
3. The funding delegated to primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" is as recorded on Table 2 of the budget statement. Figures are only indicative of the amount that might be spent by schools on SEN. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
4. The SEN element of the schools budget includes the provision for pupils with statements, specialist report for statemented and non-statemented pupils, collaboration and integration, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad and inter-authority recoupment. This is recorded in lines 1.1.1 to 1.1.6 in Table 1 of the 2003–04 budget statement.
5. The SEN element of the LEA budget includes educational psychology service/assessments and statementing, LEA functions in relation to child protection, health service partnerships/specialist medical attention, parent partnership, guidance and information and promoting good practice and collaboration. This is recorded in line 2.2.6 of Table 1 of the 2003–04 budget statement.

Teaching Staff Numbers

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* education support staff there were in Wansdyke constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2004. [182502]

Mr. Miliband: The following table gives *(a)* the full-time equivalent number of teachers and *(b)* the full-time equivalent number of support staff employed in maintained schools in Wansdyke constituency in January of 1997 and 2003. Information for 2004 is not yet available at constituency level.

	1997	2003
Teachers[1]	860	940
Support staff[2]	250	390

[1] Includes all teachers normally employed within schools in the survey week. Teachers absent for long periods or seconded to other duties are excluded; their replacements, provided they are qualified teachers, are included.

[2] Includes teaching assistants, administrative staff, technicians and other support staff.

Source:
Annual School Census.

Working Tax Credit

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the effect of excluding families in receipt of working tax credit from remission of charges for board and lodging on residential educational visits; and if he will make a statement. [182768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State has not had any discussions on the effect of excluding families in receipt of working tax credits (WTC) from remission of charges for board and lodging on residential educational visits. If families who receive WTC received free board and lodging on residential trips, it is unlikely that LEAs and schools would have sufficient funds to run most residential trips. For this reason remission of these charges is targeted at non-working families in receipt of specific means tested benefits, as we consider that they are the families most in need of additional help.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of families in receipt of working tax credit with an income below £13,230 who did not qualify for remission of charges for board and lodging during residential educational visits, in the last period for which information is available. [182769]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect this information.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 July 2004

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Crop Spraying

Mr. Pickthall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals she has to ensure that there is adequate advance notice and on-site warning of crop-spraying adjacent to public footpaths. [183497]

Alun Michael: As I confirmed in my announcement on 16 June, a pilot study will be set up to explore how residents living next to farms and those using footpaths through fields can be told of pesticide use.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Essential Medicines

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had internationally on increasing access to essential medicine in the developing world. [183077]

Hilary Benn: The lack of access to essential medicines in the developing world is one of the most pressing global health issues. Tackling this could save millions of lives a year.

The UK Government is committed to significantly improving access to essential medicines in developing countries. The factors recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that can improve poor people's access to medicines are: affordable pricing, sustainable financing, reliable health and supply systems, and the rational selection and use of essential drugs. Research and development for new products is also critical, particularly if access is to be sustained over the longer term.

The Prime Minister established a high level UK Working Group on Increasing Access to Essential Medicines in the Developing World in 2001, chaired by Clare Short. There were representatives on the Group from developing countries, pharmaceutical companies, charitable foundations, the European Union (EU), WHO, DFID and other UK Government departments. The Group reported to the Prime Minister in late 2002 with recommendations focusing on widespread differential pricing of medicines for developing countries and increased research and development to meet the health needs of poor people in those countries. Seven Government departments have been working together to take forward these recommendations and related areas of activity.

The recently issued paper Increasing access to essential medicines in the developing world: UK Government policy and plans' sets out progress so far. It also outlines next steps in four areas:

Support to developing countries through the UK development assistance programme, with a focus on increasing poor people's access to health services;

Trade policy, focusing on supporting developing countries in understanding and making use of the flexibilities within World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules governing intellectual property;

Engagement with the business community, focusing on work with the pharmaceutical industry, to address the long term supply of affordable medicines to developing countries;

Efforts—in the UK and internationally—to stimulate increased research and development into new medicines and other healthcare products relevant to developing country needs.

The UK Government is in regular dialogue with pharmaceutical companies—in particular the British and American Pharmaceutical Groups—their investors, non-governmental organisations, international agencies and donors, research institutions, and of course governments and other stakeholders in developing countries. In addition, written comments were solicited from a broad range of stakeholders on the consultation draft of the recent policy paper.

The UK Government also discusses access to medicines internationally. Highlights from the past year—in which the UK played an active part—include:

Commitments made by the G8 in Evian last year to strengthen the framework for differential pricing of medicines and increased research and development, and an additional commitment made in Sea Island this year to establish a global HIV vaccine enterprise;

Agreement of an EU Regulation to try and prevent diversion of affordably priced medicines away from developing countries and into the EU;

The establishment by the World Health Assembly of a WHO Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (due to report in 2006);

The Decision last August by the WTO General Council on mechanisms to allow countries with no or insufficient pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity to import generic copies of patented essential medicines, in order to meet their public health needs.

India

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications of the spread of AIDS in India. [183376]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: India has a total population of 1.07 billion people, of which half are in the 15 to 49 year old age group. Data from the most recent HIV surveillance exercise undertaken by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has just been released. It is considered the most reliable of various data sources, and estimates that 5.1 million people were infected with HIV at the end of 2003. This represents an HIV prevalence rate in the adult population of 0.9 per cent. India therefore remains a low prevalence country. Of the estimated 5.1 million cases, 59 per cent. are rural, while 41 per cent. are urban. Women account for 36 per cent. of infections. Six high prevalence states account for over 84 per cent. of the AIDS cases reported in India since the

beginning of the epidemic. These are Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the two North-Eastern States of Nagaland and Manipur.

The recent surveillance data highlights the following:

There is a fall in the rate of growth of HIV infections in India.

No moderate or low prevalence state has moved into a higher category.

Early signs of stabilisation of HIV infections in the high prevalence states.

This is encouraging, but challenges remain. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in India is still considered to be "concentrated", with injecting drug users, commercial sex workers and men who have sex with men recording much higher HIV infection rates than the general population. However, NACO is aware of the risk of the epidemic moving into the general population.

In 2001, DFID India committed support of £123 million to the Government of India's National AIDS Control Programme, to be disbursed over five years. The main aim of the programme is to reach out to the communities at high risk (sex workers, men having sex with men, injectable drug users etc.) with innovative programmes to contain the spread of the disease. Targeted interventions are specifically designed to reach out to these hard to reach vulnerable groups where the prevalence of disease is highest.

The programme also includes support to the BBC World Service Trust for media campaigns to raise awareness in the general public. In addition, DFID supports the UN theme group coordinated by UNAIDS to strengthen its role in prevention of HIV/AIDS in India. UNAIDS benefits from DFID support to strengthen its capacity as secretariat for all United Nations HIV initiatives in India.

Reproductive Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress the Government have made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal on reproductive health by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [183663]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: While there is not a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for reproductive health, we remain firmly committed to the target agreed at the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development of achieving access to reproductive health for all by 2015. DFID believes that population and reproductive health issues are fundamental to efforts to tackle poverty and achieve the MDGs. Reproductive health especially embraces three health related MDGs—those to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and to combat and prevent HIV/AIDS as well as tackling income poverty and gender inequality. Without progress in improving access to reproductive health it is unlikely that these MDGs will be met.

There is much progress since 1994 to celebrate—countries have turned ICPD commitments into policies and action, increased access to a range of family planning options, and in some countries cut maternal deaths. But still too many poor women, men and young people in developing countries are denied their right to sexual and reproductive health. 120 million couples do not have access to the family planning services and contraception they need. Every year, 529,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth and three million children die in the first week of life. Millions live with HIV and sexually transmitted bacterial infections that are mainly preventable.

On Tuesday 6 June, the Secretary of State launched DFID's Position Paper on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. It describes progress to date and sets out what remains to be done. It will form the basis for planning our future investment and activities and our work with partners. The same day the Secretary of State announced increased funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UK will be providing £80 million over four years (2004–07) in core funding to UNFPA to support its work on sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development, and gender. UNFPA's work is also a critical part of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts within the framework of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

TREASURY

Blind and Partially Sighted People

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of blind and partially sighted people of working age were in employment in each of the last six years. [182536]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. David Stewart, dated 13 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the percentage of blind and partially sighted people of working age in employment in each of the last six years. I am replying in his absence. (182536)

The attached table gives the available information from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) relating to people identified in the survey as "partially sighted" who have difficulty in seeing even while wearing spectacles or contact lenses. Information separately identifying blind people is not available.

As with any statistical sample survey, estimates for the LFS are subject to sampling variability.

Employment rates for partially-sighted people of working age[1]—United Kingdom—three months ending in February each year from 1999 to 2004

	Per cent
1999	36
2000	39
2001	37
2002	35
2003	38
2004	38

[1] Working age refers to men aged 16 to 64 or women aged to 16 to 59.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the public service agreements contain, for all departments, targets for reductions in carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will make a statement, with particular reference to the Department for Transport. [183701]

Mr. Boateng: It would not be appropriate for all departments to have targets relating to carbon dioxide emissions.

The Department for Transport, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Trade and Industry share responsibility for delivering the PSA target on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide emissions.

Details of all PSA targets can be found in the 2004 Spending Review PSA White Paper, published on 12 July 2004.

ECOFIN

Mr. Hood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the outcome was of the ECOFIN Council held on 5 July; what the Government's stance was on the issues discussed, including its voting record; and if he will make a statement. [182778]

Mr. Gordon Brown: The Council took note of the presentation by the Presidency of its work programme on economic and financial affairs for the second half of 2004. Five priorities were identified in the work programme: reduction of the administrative burden on companies; progress with work on the EU's financial perspective for the 2007–13 period; combating terrorism, and specifically the financing of terrorism; financial services; and taxation. The work programme was approved.

ECOFIN adopted opinions on the Convergence Programmes of the new member states, and excessive deficit recommendations on Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia. Given the different starting points and different budgetary plans of the member states concerned, the Recommendations set different target dates for bringing their deficits below 3 per cent. of GDP: 2005 for Cyprus, 2006 for Malta, 2007 for Poland and Slovakia and 2008 for the Czech Republic and Hungary.

ECOFIN adopted a decision on the existence of an excessive deficit in Greece, and a recommendation on action to be taken to correct it. In its Recommendation, the Council called on Greece to put an end to the excessive deficit situation by 2005 at the latest, requiring action to be taken to this end by 5 November 2004, and to ensure that budgetary consolidation towards a medium-term position of close to balance or in surplus is sustained. Greece accepted the recommendation.

The Italian budgetary position was discussed. ECOFIN welcomed the Italian government's commitments to improve the position and, in light of those commitments, the Council considered that Italy had responded to the concerns expressed in the Commission's 28 April 2004 recommendation to issue an Early Warning in order to prevent the occurrence of an excessive deficit. The Council will continue to monitor the budgetary position, in particular debt dynamics and the plans for 2005. The Council conclusions were approved unanimously.

The EU-Terrorism Co-ordinator, Gijs de Vries, presented the financial aspects of on-going work in the fight against terrorism, emphasising ECOFIN's role. The UK welcomed the emphasis on effective implementation and the Dutch Presidency's intent to make fighting terrorism a priority.

The Commission outlined developments within its Accounting Regulatory Committee (ARC) on the introduction into EU law of revised International Accounting Standards (IAS) and in particular IAS 39. The Council called on the Commission to continue work on the standards with a view to making progress on the remaining problems within the timeframe allowed for by the endorsement procedure. The Presidency concluded that the ARC should consider the issues and report back to ECOFIN.

Fuel Duty

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake *(a)* not to increase taxes on petrol for the lifetime of this Parliament and *(b)* to scrap plans to increase petrol tax this autumn. [183246]

John Healey: Decisions on duty rates are taken by the Chancellor after consideration of all relevant social, economic and environmental factors. As the Chancellor announced at the 3 June OPEC meeting, we will review progress and will make a judgment on the planned duty change due on 1 September.

Lloyd's Immunity

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to remove immunity from prosecution for negligence and misrepresentations from Lloyd's; and if he will make a statement. [183288]

Ruth Kelly: The Lloyd's Acts 1871 to 1982 provide the constitution of the Society of Lloyd's. Section 14 of the Lloyd's Act 1982 exempts the society from liability in damages to members of the Lloyd's community in certain circumstances. The immunity only applies to liability incurred in the exercise of or omission to exercise a statutory function or power ie those aspects of the society's functions that it is required to exercise to organise the Lloyd's market. The immunity does not extend to acts which are either done in bad faith or which do not involve the exercise of discretion.

The Government have no plans to change this position.

Tax Credits

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families are estimated to have received working tax credit overpayments in 2003–04; what the estimated average working tax credit overpayment is per family in 2003–04; and what the overall estimated *(a)* overpayment and *(b)* debt was in 2003–04. [183135]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 22 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 663–64W.

Voting Age

Brian Cotter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 and 17-year-olds live in the Weston-super-Mare constituency. [183917]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Mr. Brian Cotter, dated 13 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many 16 and 17 year olds live in the Weston-Super-Mare constituency. I am replying in his absence. (183917)

Figures from the "Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies" indicate that on Census day (29 April 2001) there were 2,308 people aged 16–17 living in Weston-Super-Mare parliamentary constituency.

The information below has been extracted from the CD supplement to the "Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies", which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Area	*All people*	*People aged 16–17*
Weston-Super-Mare	97,105	2,308

Source:
Table KS02 Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies.

Unemployment (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of unemployment in Warrington was in each year since 1997. [182772]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl to Ms Helen Jones, dated 13 July 2004:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the level of unemployment in Warrington in each year since 1997. I am replying in his absence. (182772)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The attached Table 1, gives the estimates available of the number of unemployed people resident in the Warrington unitary authority, for the twelve months ending in February for each year from 1997 to 2003.

As with any statistical sample survey, estimates for the LFS are subject to sampling variability. The fall between 1998 and 1999 shown in the table is within the limits of sampling variation.

ONS also compiles statistics of those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for local areas including parliamentary constituencies. The attached Table 2, gives the annual averages number of JSA claimants who are resident in the Warrington unitary authority for each year since 1997.

Table 1: Unemployment[1] in the Warrington unitary authority

12 months ending February	*Thousand*
1997	5
1998[2]	4
1999[2]	2
2000	4
2001	3
2002	4
2003	4

[1] Unemployed residents of the Warrington UA.
[2] Figures not yet adjusted to take account of 2001 Census data.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey Local Area Datasets

Table 2: JSA claimants resident in the Warrington unitary authority area

	Annual averages
1997	3,679
1998	3,083
1999	2,999
2000	2,750
2001	2,431
2002	2,377
2003	2,279

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

TRANSPORT

Drivers' Hours Regulations (HGVs)

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers of heavy goods vehicles were found to be breaking the drivers' hours regulations in 2002–03; how many were prosecuted; and what penalties were imposed. [183696]

Mr. Jamieson: Enforcement of the drivers' hours regulations in Great Britain is carried out by the police and by the Department's Vehicle and Operators Service Agency (VOSA). Statistics are only available for the work done by VOSA:

2002–03

	Number
Drivers checked	106,587
Prohibitions issued	4,999
Total offences reported for prosecution[1]	10,353
Number of drivers reported for prosecution[1]	2,278
Average fine per offence	£120

[1] Minor offences are dealt with by way of warning and advice and are not recorded.

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182145]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency, an agency of the Department for Transport, currently holds 105 empty residential properties.

Highways Agency

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total value was of *(a)* technical and

financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the Highways Agency in each year since 2001. [180895]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency spent:

£000

	(a) Technical and financial	*(b) Technical consultants*	*(c) Financial consultants*
2001–02	91,319	88,437	2,882
2002–03	171,739	165,056	6,683
2003–04	220,194	215,269	4,925

Ministerial Speeches

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the speeches made by Ministers with responsibility for transport issues to external organisations since 1 June 2003. [180857]

Mr. McNulty: Transport Ministers have undertaken a very wide range of speaking engagements since 1 June 2003. Key speeches are listed on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk, in the Ministerial section of "About DfT".

Road Traffic

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department recommends that county councils issuing consultation documents for road improvements should include traffic projection figures. [183773]

Mr. Jamieson: It is for local highway authorities to determine the information included in consultation documents on any road improvements that they are promoting. My Department would expect this to include such information needed for consultees to reach an informed understanding of the scheme.

Speed Cameras

Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what common speed thresholds for penalties and prosecutions speed camera partnerships apply. [181173]

Mr. Jamieson: Enforcement thresholds are a matter for individual chief police officers. Guidelines established by the Association of Chief Police Officers is not to enforce below 10 per cent. plus 2 mph over the posted speed limit.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has commissioned on the effects of high levels of speed enforcement. [182345]

Mr. Jamieson: The independent review of the first three years' operation of the national safety camera programme, carried out by University College London and PA Consulting Group and published on 15 June, concluded that the number of people killed or seriously injured at camera sites had been reduced by 40 per cent., over and above the UK's general downward trend in road casualties. The report is available in the Library and on the Department's website.

The Department will also start research this year to assess the potential benefits of other speed enforcement measures such as vehicle-activated signs and in-car information on speed limits.

Transport Strategy (South Coast)

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what priority is being given to the south coast corridor in his draft Transport Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [182393]

Mr. McNulty: Once the Government's current review of the 10 Year Plan for Transport is complete we will publish a new transport strategy. A range of work has continued on the south coast corridor since the publication of the South Coast Multi Modal Study.

Trust Ports

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the capital value is of each trust port which is defined as a public corporation. [183698]

Mr. Jamieson: The latest published accounts we have received from the major ports defined as public corporations show on the balance sheets that the net worth of each port is as follows:

£ million

Port	*Net worth*
Port of London (at 31 December 2003)	48.3
Dover (at 31 December 2003)	124.8
Milford Haven (at 31 December 2002)	31.9
Poole (at 31 March 2003)	11.8
Tyne (at 31 December 2002)	47.6
Harwich Haven (at 31 December 2003)	33.8

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 388W, on animal experiments, when the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research will take over the budget hitherto allocated to the Centre for Best Practice for Animals in Research (CBPAR); when the double funding promised by the Medical Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council will be transferred to the National Centre; when the Animal Procedures Committee will transfer its funding to the National Centre; when the National Centre will fully take over the functions of the CPBAR; and if she will make a statement. [183513]

Ms Hewitt: The Centre for Best Practice for Animals in research (CBPAR), which already carries out many of the functions of the national centre, will continue to operate until September when it will be replaced by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3RS). The funding committed by the Medical Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council will be transferred to NC3RS at that time. The budget for research into the 3Rs currently

administered by the Animal Procedures Committee will be transferred by the Home Office to the Centre once its current commitments have been honoured. The Home Office is currently considering the timing and arrangements for the transfer.

China

Denzil Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what criteria formed the basis of the EU's recent decision that China is not a market economy. [182170]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The EU's decision was taken exclusively in the context of trade defence investigations, looking at the reliability of costs and prices of Chinese companies. Within this framework, China did not meet four criteria, namely state influence in company affairs, corporate governance particularly compliance with accounting law, equal treatment of all companies under property and bankruptcy law and the independence of the financial sector. China did, however, meet the criterion of absence of compensation systems and the absence of state induced distortions in connection with privatisation.

Fur Imports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much fur, broken down by species, was imported into the UK in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [183066]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: According to statistics published by HM Customs and Excise, information on UK imports of raw furskins, tanned or dressed furskins and articles of furskin are given in the following three tables. A key to the system of classification used in compiling these statistics is given in a fourth table.

The Government welcome their continuing dialogue and constructive relationship with both interested animal welfare groups and relevant trade associations.

Table 1: UK imports of furskins, raw (including heads, tails, paws and other pieces or cuttings, suitable for furriers' use)

£000 (current prices)

Code	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
43011000	12,265	9,109	13,011	15,138	8,300	4,634	5,189	5,072	3,559	4,156
43012000	5	—	601	—	4	30	1	—	—	—
43013000	14	62	110	47	97	77	7	46	111	0
43014000	—	1	7	3	3	5	3	0	—	—
43015000	112	229	421	357	8	155	172	15	—	—
43016000	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	623
43017090	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	—
43018010	29	11	2,483	—	—	—	—	—	—	78
43018030	—	4	—	—	—	—	46	—	33	—
43018050	—	6	1	0	2	—	—	106	390	631
43018090	1,382	791	3,181	1,650	795	733	647	1,393	—	—
43018095	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,615	867
43019000	—	39	237	339	29	110	357	34	59	33
Total suppressed	8,645	10,039	8,150	3,299	2,600	1,182	1,218	1,929	944	—
Total	22,452	20,291	28,201	20,832	11,838	6,927	7,638	8,595	6,712	6,388

[1] Indicates values that are suppressed for reasons of commercial confidentiality; the total of suppressed values are shown under "Total suppressed".

Notes:

1. A zero value indicates imports of less than £500.
2. Blanks indicate no imports.

Table 2: UK imports of furskins, tanned or dressed (including heads, tails, paws and other pieces or cuttings), unassembled, or assembled (without the addition of other materials)

£000 (current prices)

Code	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
43021100	5,634	9,220	23,031	25,165	17,200	7,390	8,575	10,614	10,045	8,924
43021200	3	19	13	76	72	7	128	213	—	—
43021300	1,125	1,482	1,173	818	283	242	357	449	475	682
43021910	34	21	33	18	3	24	1	1	3	24
43021920	149	284	173	43	35	15	2	4	—	18
43021930	2,253	3,066	3,827	1,622	864	459	540	493	1,091	1,175
43021935	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	289	65
43021941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
43021949	—	21	7	91	41	42	42	68	49	70
43021950	188	138	524	233	164	7	34	17	42	48
43021960	9	57	171	83	—	84	0	4	0	0
43021970	25	26	0	26	50	44	101	382	192	266
43021980	2,601	2,254	2,153	1,932	1,260	1,139	1,871	3,359	6,099	4,893
43021995	3,675	3,431	4,375	3,567	2,459	1,993	3,130	2,787	3,592	4,023
43022000	162	43	36	24	21	77	42	62	59	23
43023010	2	1	—	0	5	—	106	2	—	6
43023021	440	276	183	378	206	30	62	144	171	68
43023025	28	10	1	41	3	58	105	101	57	90
43023031	227	106	202	540	527	597	907	465	553	457
43023035	6	—	0	2	—	—	—	—	2	—

Table 2: UK imports of furskins, tanned or dressed (including heads, tails, paws and other pieces or cuttings), unassembled, or assembled (without the addition of other materials)

£000 (current prices)

Code	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
43023041	211	357	479	431	182	18	34	34	21	9
43023045	122	12	2	—	0	7	35	52	203	321
43023055	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	24
43023061	58	80	68	40	9	—	—	—	9	31
43023065	79	216	822	1,184	209	283	—	—	—	19
43023071	—	1	0	147	205	149	135	189	68	164
43023075	2,645	2,429	5,578	6,196	2,755	1,928	2,958	2,300	1,390	1,172
Total	19,740	23,550	42,849	42,657	26,553	14,591	19,165	21,747	24,413	22,571

Notes:
1. A zero value indicates imports of less than £500.
2. Blanks indicate no imports.

Table 3: UK imports of articles of furskin

£000 (current prices)

	Code			
	43031010	43031090	43039000	Total
1994	—	3,900	474	4,374
1995	—	2,603	742	3,345
1996	—	2,871	1,216	4,088
1997	—	2,379	2,884	5,262
1998	7	1,993	2,184	4,184
1999	2	3,071	1,866	4,939
2000	2	3,127	2,282	5,412
2001	27	3,634	2,562	6,223
2002	3	5,395	3,934	9,332
2003	1	7,606	4,409	12,015

Notes:
1. A zero value indicates imports of less than £500.
2. Blanks indicate no imports.

Table 4: Commodity codes of the harmonised system

Code	Description
43011000	Raw furskins of mink, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43012000	Raw furskin of rabbit or hare, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43013000	Raw furskin of lamb including Astrakhan, Broadtail, Caracul, Persian and similar lambs, Indian, Chinese, Mongolian or Tibetan lambs, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43014000	Raw furskin of beaver, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43015000	Raw furskin of musk-rat, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43016000	Raw furskins of fox, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43017010	Raw furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal and of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs), whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43017090	Raw furskins of sea-lions, fur seals, other seals, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43018010	Raw furskins of sea-otter or of nutria (coypu), whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43018030	Raw furskins of marmot, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43018050	Raw furskins of wild felines, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43018090	Raw furskins of other animals, whole, with or without head, tail or paws
43018095	Other raw furskins, whole, with or without head, tail or paws, including rabbit, hare, beaver, musk-rat
43019000	Heads, tails, paws and other pieces or cuttings suitable for furriers' use
43021100	Tanned or dressed furskins of mink, not assembled
43021200	Tanned or dressed furskins of rabbit or hare, not assembled
43021300	Tanned or dressed furskins of lamb including Astrakahn, Broadtail, Caracul, Persian and similar lamb, Indian, Chinese, Mongolian or Tibetan lamb, not assembled
43021910	Tanned or dressed furskins of beaver, not assembled
43021920	Tanned or dressed furskins of musk-rat, not assembled
43021930	Tanned or dressed furskins of fox, not assembled
43021935	Tanned or dressed furskins of rabbit or hare, not assembled
43021941	Tanned or dressed furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal (blue-backs), not assembled
43021949	Tanned or dressed furskins of sea-lions of furseals and other seals, not assembled
43021950	Tanned or dressed furskins of sea otters or of nutria (coypu), not assembled
43021960	Tanned or dressed furskins of marmot, not assembled
43021970	Tanned or dressed furskins of wild felines, not assembled
43021980	Tanned or dressed furskins of sheep or lambs, not assembled
43021995	Tanned or dressed furskins of other animals, not assembled
43022000	Heads, tails, paws and other pieces or cuttings, not assembled
43023010	"Dropped" furskins, assembled
43023021	Tanned or dressed furskins of mink, assembled

Table 4: Commodity codes of the harmonised system

Code	*Description*
43023025	Tanned or dressed furskins of rabbit or hare, assembled
43023031	Tanned or dressed furskins of lamb, Astrakahn, Broadtail, Caracul, Persian and similar lamb, Indian, Chinese, Mongolian and Tibetan lamb, assembled
43023035	Tanned or dressed furskins of beaver, assembled
43023041	Tanned and dressed furskins of musk-rat, assembled
43023045	Tanned or dressed furskins of fox, assembled
43023055	Tanned or dressed furskins of sea-lions, of furseals of other seals, assembled
43023061	Tanned or dressed furskins of sea otters or of nutria (coypu), assembled
43023065	Tanned or dressed furskins of marmot, assembled
43023071	Tanned or dressed furskins of wild felines, assembled
43023075	Tanned or dressed furskins of other animals, assembled
43031010	Articles of apparel of furskins of whitecoat pups of harp seal or of pups of hooded seal (blue-backs)
43031090	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories of sheep or lambskin other
43039000	Other furskin articles other than clothing accessories

Note:
Over the last 10 years, the coverage or description of some codes have changed. Consequently, comparisons over time, at the very detailed level require caution.

Higher Education Innovation Fund

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money has been spent on the *(a)* Higher Education Innovation Fund and *(b)* Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund in each quarter since its introduction. [181031]

Ms Hewitt: Funding such as HEIF and PSRE enable better relationships with industry and support the commercialisation of the intellectual property generated by research carried out in the public sector and universities.

Actual spend is shown in the following table:

Higher Education Innovation Fund (Round 1):

Quarter	*£*
February 2002	4,572,346
Total 2001–02	4,572,346
May 2002	6,185,466
August 2002	4,294,001
November 2002	6,385,402
February 2003	5,926,463
Total 2002–03	22,791,332
May 2003	6,086,861
August 2003	6,068,393
November 2003	6,213,097
February 2004	6,007,476
Total 2003–04	24,375,827
May 2004	6,752,225
Total spend	58,491,730

Higher Education Innovation Fund (Round 2)

HEIF 2 funding has been allocated and will be available for drawdown from August 2004.

Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund (Round 1)

Actual spend for PSRE 1 is collected on an annual basis and is shown in the following table:

PSRE payments—Each financial year

	£
2001–02	287,500
2002–03	7,521,860
2003–04	300,000
Total	8,109,360

Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund (Round 2)

Funding for PSRE Round 2 was available from 1 April 2004. Actual spend to date £6,205,817.

International Nuclear Waste Repository

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information her Department has received in respect of the decision of the International Atomic Energy Agency to construct an international repository for nuclear waste in Russia; and what plans there are to dispose of United Kingdom nuclear waste in this repository. [182364]

Mr. Timms: DTI has not received any information regarding this issue, but I understand that it was discussed at a private meeting at which the UK was not represented.

The Government's policy on the export of radioactive waste is set out in paragraph 145 of Cm 2919, "Review of Radioactive Waste Management Policy Final Conclusions", of July 1995.

Mary Lyon Centre

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the *(a)* originally estimated and *(b)* actual cost of construction of the Medical Research Council's Mary Lyon Centre were; and if she will make a statement on the reasons for the difference. [182764]

(2) if she will make a statement on the reasons for the delay in the opening of the Medical Research Council's Mary Lyon Centre. [182765]

Ms Hewitt: The original target date for opening the Mary Lyon Centre was the end of 2002 (as given in the MRC 2001–02 Annual Review). The building was completed in December 2003 and officially opened by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation in June 2004. It is a purpose-designed building incorporating the latest air handling and environmental engineering and will meet the highest possible standards for animal welfare.

The original construction costs were estimated at £9.5 million in May 2000. The final construction costs were £12.6 million.

The delay and increase in costs were, in part, due to: more space being required for individually-ventilated cages, incorporation of the quarantine area in the new building, Home Office requirements for a larger than anticipated quarantine area, and provision of specialised support facilities in each holding area rather than a centralised support facility. During this period, there were continuing negotiations with the contractor to keep the increase in costs to a minimum, which also added to the delay.

Post Offices (Burnley)

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what account the Post Office Ltd's proposals to close Accrington Road Post Office in Burnley took of *(a)* the alternative provision and *(b)* the number of elderly people living nearby: [182972]

(2) if Post Office Ltd will grant a sub-post office franchise to the Spar shop situated next to the Accrington Road Post Office in Burnley that is earmarked for closure; [182973]

(3) what account Post Office Ltd's proposals to close Queen Victoria Road Post Office in Burnley took of the access routes to alternative provision. [182974]

Mr. Timms: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd and I have therefore asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Russian Markets

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what potential markets in Russia for British business were discussed during her recent talks with Russia. [183079]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The visit to Russia by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was to hold discussions with Russian Ministers on a number of bilateral and multilateral issues. No sector specific discussions were held.

The Russian Government are continuing with their reform programmes, including reforms to reduce bureaucracy and bureaucratic barriers. Both governments are committed to sustaining our bilateral relationship.

CABINET OFFICE

Regulatory Offices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office to what extent current guidance issued by the Cabinet Office to regulatory offices permits them to be proactive in making policy. [181136]

Mr. Alexander: The Cabinet Office has recommended that all departments and regulators follow the Cabinet Office guidance "Better Policy Making: A Guide to Regulatory Impact Assessments" which details different ways in which policy-making problems can be addressed. This is available on the Cabinet Office website (www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation) and a copy is also available in the Library. In January 2004, the Cabinet Office issued a revised 'Code of Practice on Consultation' which sets out standards for consultations run by Government and recommends that all regulators follow the guidance.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Recycling

Norman Baker: To ask the Chairman of the Catering Committee if he will for environmental reasons replace the sturdy plastic bags provided with purchases in the Debate cafeteria, with paper bags. [182864]

Mr. Dennis Turner: There are no plans to change the clear plastic carrier bags used in the Debate, which are practical for their purpose. The bags help to reduce queues by allowing cashiers to see the contents without the need for them to be unpacked at the tills, and are sturdy enough to allow customers to carry hot drinks safely to their offices in Portcullis House and the other parliamentary buildings. Indeed, the bags are so sturdy that many of our customers re-use them and we encourage them to do this.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Procurement Policies

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps are taken by the Central Procurement Office to ensure that procurement policies apply criteria that maximise advantage to the environment; what relative weight is given to these compared with achieving best value for money; and if he will make a statement. [183700]

Sir Archy Kirkwood: The Central Procurement Office requires an initial examination of suppliers' environmental performance at bidder selection stage. Questions about breaches of environmental law, and bidders' environmental policies, are asked as a matter of routine for all procurements conducted under UK contracts regulations. Any breach of the law is grounds for rejection. Weighting given to environmental policies will vary and be appropriate to the potential environmental impact of performing the contract. This standard approach is followed regardless of other award criteria.

Weighting given to environmental factors in the evaluation of tenders will also depend on the potential impact of performance of the contract. Advantage to the environment is taken into account as part of the overall value for money assessment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcohol

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which representatives of the alcohol industry she met on 28 June; what topics were discussed; what plans she has for further meetings; what

other organisations with an interest in alcohol harm reduction she has met over the last three months; and if she will make a statement. [182793]

Mr. Caborn: On 28 June, the Home Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport jointly held a productive meeting with a small group of selected leaders from within the alcohol retail and producer industries and trade associations about the implementation of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England. In particular, the meeting considered irresponsible sales promotions; possible means of changing the culture of binge drinking; and codes of good practice for retailers. There was widespread appreciation of the vital role the industry has to play and a determination on all sides to drive up standards. A range of further meetings will now follow that will focus on putting in place practical solutions to the problems identified. I have had regular meetings in the last three months in a working group with representatives of the police, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, the industry, local authorities and other Government Departments to discuss alcohol-related violence. The group is chaired by the Minister of State for Police and Crime Reduction in the Home Office.

Cricket

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the cricket academies in England she has provided funding to. [183792]

Mr. Caborn: The Government, through Sport England, funds the following cricket academies:

National Cricket Academy—Loughborough
Derbyshire
Durham
Essex
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Kent
Lancashire
Leicestershire
Middlesex
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Somerset
Surrey
Warwickshire
Worcestershire
Yorkshire.

Digital Television

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received on the coverage of digital television services *(a)* now and *(b)* in two years' time; and if she will make a statement. [183597]

Estelle Morris: Over the past three months, the Department has received around 50 inquiries from MPs and around 510 letters and phone calls from members of the public regarding the coverage of digital television services. We have also answered five parliamentary questions from hon. Members on this subject. The majority of these enquiries are concerned with both current digital coverage and future predicted coverage for the next few years and at switchover.

Museums and Galleries

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list for each museum or gallery that contains a national collection *(a)* the grant in aid the Government has provided in each year since free entry was introduced, *(b)* the grant in aid the Government plans to provide in the future for each year that plans are available and *(c)* the targets that must be met in terms of (i) numbers of visitors and (ii) social inclusion. [183559]

Estelle Morris: Grant in aid provided to NDPB museums and galleries sponsored by the Department *(a)* since 2001, and *(b)* planned up to and including 2005–06, is set out in the table:

Grant in aid

£000

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*	*2005–06 (planned)*
British Museum	36,069	36,469	37,719	37,999	38,215
Geffrye Museum	1,174	1,274	1,256	1,811	1,431
Horniman Museum	2,974	3,378	3,281	3,659	3,682
Imperial War Museum	13,118	16,350	16,541	17,491	17,811
Museum of London	4,951	6,293	6,574	6,506	6,576
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	2,739	3,406	3,299	3,509	3,740
National Gallery	19,949	20,449	20,479	21,227	21,460
National Maritime Museum	12,588	13,681	14,012	15,731	14,825
National Museums Liverpool	15,468	16,569	17,332	17,333	17,679
National Museum of Science and Industry	26,734	32,040	34,750	33,119	32,882
National Portrait Gallery	5,462	5,732	5,712	6,108	6,163
Natural History Museum	32,377	38,085	39,603	39,647	40,080
Royal Armouries	5,945	6,157	6,286	6,887	7,113
Sir John Soane's Museum	699	699	2,749	969	776
Tate Gallery	26,755	27,779	30,282	29,881	30,41 1
Victoria and Albert Museum	32,337	34,771	34,839	36,125	36,781
Wallace Collection	2,163	2,607	3,013	2,574	2,495

(c) National museums and galleries sponsored by the Department have agreed the following targets for (i) total visitors and (ii) C,2,D and E visitors in their 2003 Funding Agreements:

Institution	*Total visitors*	*Numbers of C.2.D and E visitors*[1]
British Museum		
2003–04	4,400,000	580,000
2004–05	4,400,000	600,000
2005–06	4,500,000	620,000
Geffrye Museum		
2003–04	83,000	15,200
2004–05	85,000	15,600
2005–06	88,000	16,000
Horniman Museum		
2003–04	250,000	46,000
2004–05	250,000	47,500
2005–06	260,000	48,600
Imperial War Museum		
2003–04	1,900,000	470,000
2004–05	1,950,000	500,000
2005–06	2,000,000	520,000
Museum of London		
2003–04	400,000	39,000
2004–05	400,000	42,000
2005–06	500,000	55,000
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester		
2003–04	380,000	155,000
2004–05	400,000	168,000
2005–06	420,000	180,000
National Gallery		
2003–04	4,100,000	370,000
2004–05	4,200,000	375,000
2005–06	4,500,000	405,000
National Museums Liverpool		
2003–04	1,300,000	439,000
2004–05	1,400,000	451,000
2005–06	1,500,000	463,000
National Maritime Museum		
2003–04	1,000,000	175,000
2004–05	960,000	173,000
2005–06	1,050,000	189,000
National Museum of Science and Industry		
2003–04	3,853,000	844,000
2004–05	3,925,000	870,000
2005–06	3,960,000	900,000
National Portrait Gallery		
2003–04	1,275,000	57,000
2004–05	1,325,000	60,000
2005–06	1,375,000	62,000
National History Museum		
2003–04	2,800,000	460,000
2004–05	2,850,000	472,000
2005–06	2,850,000	484,000
Royal Armouries		
2003–04	410,000	18,040
2004–05	420,000	25,200
2005–06	430,000	30,200
Sir John Soane's Museum		
2003–04	85,000	2,600
2004–05	87,000	2,650
2005–06	87,000	2,700
Tate		
2003–04	5,100,000	500,000
2004–05	4,900,000	550,000
2005–06	4,900,000	600,000
Victoria and Albert Museum		
2003–04	2,200,000	168,000
2004–05	2,250,000	173,000
2005–06	2,300,000	180,000
Wallace Collection		
2003–04	230,000	15,750
2004–05	240,000	16,100
2005–06	250,000	17,010

[1] Numbers of C2DE visitors in order to achieve an 8 per cent. increase by 2005–06 on the 2002–03 baseline.

The (2003–06) Funding Agreements are available in full on the DCMS website www.culture.gov.uk.

Public Relations

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the salary costs to the Department were for employees working in public relations and publicity in each year since 1997. [183847]

Mr. Caborn: Salary costs to the Department for employees working in public relations and publicity in 2002–03 were £536,692 and for 2003–04 were £632,014. Information requested for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Regional Arts Councils

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed by each regional arts council in each year since 1997; what the budget of each council was in each year; and what proportion of the budget was allocated to administrative costs for each council in each year, broken down by *(a)* pay and *(b)* other costs. [183171]

Estelle Morris: Information requested by the hon. Member is contained in the table supplied by the Arts Council of England.

We are waiting for the figures for 2002–03 from Arts Council England.

Summary of RAB administration and overhead costs as a percentage of expenditure

	East England Arts	East Midland Arts Board	London Arts
1997–98			
Staffing and related costs	908,331	715,999	1,288,960
Other administration costs	397,861	306,999	859,400
Total administration and overheads	1,306,192	1,022,998	2,148,360
Total expenditure	5,921,244	5,168,319	14,872,438
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	22	20	14
Average number of staff	41	36	44
1998–99			
Staffing and related costs	992,060	761,453	1,251,771
Other administration costs	364,820	360,851	715,972
Total administration and overheads	1,356,880	1,122,304	1,967,743
Total expenditure	5,639,774	5,365,203	14,811,118
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	24	21	13
Average number of staff	41	45	42
1999–2000			
Staffing and related costs	1,146,055	1,111,490	1,430,902
Other administration costs	481,393	563,177	898,938
Total administration and overheads	1,627,448	1,674,667	2,329,840
Total expenditure	6,293,572	7,006,544	16,015,916
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	26	24	15
Average number of staff	41	58	45
2000–01			
Staffing and related costs	1,125,998	1,266,225	1,826,186
Other administration costs	524,561	422,850	1,585,469
Total administration and overheads	1,650,559	1,689,075	3,411,655
Total expenditure	7,000,460	9,088,237	29,407,937
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	24	19	12
Average number of staff	38	58	65
2001–02			
Staffing and related costs	1,187,428	1,111,243	2,188,180
Other administration costs	783,951	491,389	1,526,516
Total administration and overheads	1,971,379	1,602,632	3,714,696
Total expenditure	12,197,680	11,534,548	34,785,603
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	16	14	11
Average number of staff	42	59	69

	Northern Arts Board	North West Arts Board	Southern Arts Board
1997–98			
Staffing and related costs	831,749	933,757	825,751
Other administration costs	359,394	534,109	326,794
Total administration and overheads	1,191,143	1,467,866	1,152,545
Total expenditure	7,891,794	11,219,265	4,503,999
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	15	13	26
Average number of staff	36	46	33
1998–99			
Staffing and related costs	845,136	1,007,910	865,136
Other administration costs	308,273	540,287	349,349
Total administration and overheads	1,153,409	1,548,197	1,214,485
Total expenditure	8,267,016	10,078,239	5,079,650
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	14	15	24
Average number of staff	37	46	33
1999–2000			
Staffing and related costs	932,376	1,100,443	955,265
Other administration costs	372,542	585,497	491,926
Total administration and overheads	1,304,918	1,685,940	1,447,191
Total expenditure	9,405,899	11,546,441	5,819,415
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	14	15	25
Average number of staff	37	51	38

	Northern Arts Board	North West Arts Board	Southern Arts Board
2000–01			
Staffing and related costs	984,456	1,215,298	1,119,967
Other administration costs	525,242	690,331	375,388
Total administration and overheads	1,509,698	1,905,629	1,495,355
Total expenditure	13,066,717	20,406,256	10,306,390
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	12	9	15
Average number of staff	38	53	38
2001–02			
Staffing and related costs	1,021,101	1,347,878	1,425,184
Other administration costs	571,021	687,347	387,988
Total administration and overheads	1,592,122	2,035,225	1,813,172
Total expenditure	15,655,706	24,416,660	12,789,879
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	10	8	14
Average number of staff	38	55	40

	South East Arts Board	South West Arts Board	West Midlands Arts Board	Yorkshire Arts Board
1997–98				
Staffing and related costs	726,399	665,597	1,002,117	885,370
Other administration costs	289,395	411,237	220,610	347,252
Total administration and overheads	1,015,794	1,076,834	1,222,727	1,232,622
Total expenditure	3,615,520	5,238,197	6,822,659	7,774,146
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	28	21	18	16
Average number of staff	30	33	42	40
1998–99				
Staffing and related costs	771,084	675,165	1,061,746	948,554
Other administration costs	362,321	603,399	215,600	366,634
Total administration and overheads	1,133,405	1,278,564	1,277,346	1,315,188
Total expenditure	3,761,861	5,297,039	7,000,927	8,021,625
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	30	24	18	16
Average number of staff	31	33	42	44
1999–2000				
Staffing and related costs	1,032,689	865,865	1,270,866	1,027,526
Other administration costs	441,841	977,976	209,971	437,317
Total administration and overheads	1,474,530	1,843,841	1,480,837	1,464,843
Total expenditure	4,398,127	6,183,189	8,145,266	8,814,294
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	34	30	18	17
Average number of staff	40	42	46	45
2000–01				
Staffing and related costs	1,139,559	1,076,325	1,122,211	1,108,738
Other administration costs	466,581	385,060	452,053	440,048
Total administration and overheads	1,606,140	1,461,385	1,574,264	1,548,786
Total expenditure	6,475,350	8,566,878	13,164,245	12,095,054
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	25	17	12	13
Average number of staff	43	43	45	44
2001–02				
Staffing and related costs	1,216,326	1,215,465	1,212,588	1,193,129
Other administration costs	855,379	459,106	580,131	508,643
Total administration and overheads	2,071,705	1,674,571	1,792,719	1,701,772
Total expenditure	9,545,804	11,053,922	15,412,082	14,132,920
Admin and overheads as percentage of total expenditure	22	15	12	12
Average number of staff	42	42	50	42

Notes:

1. The figure for total administration and overheads includes staffing, premises, travel and subsistence, legal and company costs. It excludes everything which may be considered to be direct arts spend.
2. All figures are taken from RAB audited accounts
3. From 2001–02 onwards RABs were set up as delegate bodies for distribution of NLDF funds hence their increase in total expenditure in 2000–01 and 2001–02.

Travel Costs

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the travel costs were of civil servants in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its related agencies in each year since 1997. [183897]

Mr. Caborn: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules contained in the Civil Service Management Code and the Department's staff handbook.

The table shows expenditure on travel and subsistence combined by civil servants in the Department and its agency, the Royal Parks from, 1997–98 to 2003–04.

An analysis on travel only is not recorded on the Department's accounting system and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£

Financial year	DCMS	Royal parks
2003–04[1]	429,615.97	37,771
2002–03	479,690.78	40,833
2001–02	411,227.86	26,015
2000–01	366,112.06	20,132
1999–2000	362,767.76	19,854
1998–99	252,990.17	27,298
1997–98	256,166.64	41,434

[1] FY 2003–04 costs are provisional pending finalisation of Department's and RPA's annual accounts.

DEFENCE

Arctic Convoys

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the award of medals to those who served on the Arctic convoys. [182976]

Mr. Caplin: Since 1 April 2004 the Ministry of Defence has received the following correspondence from hon. Members and members of the public on a medal for service for the Arctic convoys.

Parliamentary questions: 10

Ministerial correspondence: 24

Correspondence and telephone enquiries from members of the public: approximately 65.

A petition of approximately 44,000 names was delivered to my right hon. Friend The Prime Minister on 15 May and has since been passed to the Ministry of Defence.

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether records have been kept of armed forces personnel who served on the convoys to Russia during the Second World War. [182925]

Mr. Caplin: A definitive list of armed forces personnel who served on the convoys to Russia during World War II is not held.

Army Recruitment

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were recruited to the *(a)* Green Howards and *(b)* Prince of Wales's Own Regiment from the Calderdale area in each of the last five years. [183139]

Mr. Caplin: *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* Since 2001–02 only one soldier has been enlisted into The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment (PWO) from the Calderdale area. There have been no enlistments to the Green Howards (GH). Statistics prior to this period are not available.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were recruited to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment from the *(a)* Calderdale and *(b)* West Yorkshire area in each of the last five years. [183140]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The following table shows the numbers of soldiers enlisted into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (DWR) from the Calderdale and West Yorkshire area between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2004. Statistics prior to this period are not available.

Financial year	Calderdale	West Yorkshire (excluding Calderdale)
2001–02	33	72
2002–03	24	70
2003–04	47	53

It should be noted that Infantry recruits are enlisted into a Division and not a specific Regiment. The results in this table may not, therefore, be fully accurate as it reflects those recruits who specified DWR as a 'Preferred Capbadge' on enlisting as recorded on the database of Headquarters Recruiting Group, who oversee the Army's recruiting offices.

All Infantry Regiments recruit soldiers from specific areas, although if a recruit has a particular desire to join a Regiment that recruits from another area they are permitted to choose that Regiment. The area of Calderdale is the recruiting territory of the DWR within the Kings Division, so any potential recruit for the Infantry that joins from the Calderdale area will normally be enlisted into the DWR. The only other Regiment that recruits from the Calderdale area is the Coldstream Guards.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of soldiers in the Scottish infantry regiments were recruited outside Scotland. [183214]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The following table shows the numbers and percentages of recruits into the Scottish Division for Financial Year 2003–04.

	Number	Percentage of enlistments
Total enlisted into Scottish Division for FY 2003–04	616	—
Enlisted from outside Scotland—British	7	1.14
Enlisted from outside Scotland—Commonwealth	26	4.22
Total enlisted from outside Scotland	33	5.36

The figures do not include the Scots Guards, who are part of the Guards Division, and only reflect the six Battalions of the Scottish Infantry Division. These are The Royal Scots, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The Kings Own Scottish Borders, The Black Watch, The Highlanders and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Additionally, of the 26 Commonwealth recruits enlisted into the Scottish Division in FY 2003–04,13 were recruited in Scotland.

Chinook Crash

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the wreckage of flight ZD 576 was put into storage at Fleetlands. [183607]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The wreckage of Chinook ZD 576 was transferred by the Mobile Aircraft Support Unit from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch site at Farnborough, to secure storage at Fleetlands at the end of July 1994.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps were taken before the final flight of ZD 576 to ensure that the aircraft was airworthy. [183664]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* As Pilot, Flt Lt Tapper, carried out the appropriate pre-flight checks and inspections.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the total floor space area of buildings owned or leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies for each year since 1997. [181376]

Mr. Caplin: The only data available is for 1997 and 2002, and covers gross external area (GEA), of freehold property assets owned by the Ministry of Defence. This data is drawn from periodic asset revaluation and comparable information for the other years (as with details of leasehold property) is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Assets belonging to trading funds are also excluded.

The GEA figures include substantial ground assets such as runways and parade grounds as well as buildings. It is estimated that, in 2002, some 42 per cent. of GEA were building assets for the United Kingdom estate as follows:

1997—71.1 million m^2 (including 23.1 million m^2 owned by its Agencies) of which buildings are estimated at 30.1 million m^2.

2002—62 million m^2 (including 21 million m^2 owned by its Agencies) of which buildings are estimated at 26 million m^2.

Departmental Library

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many volumes of military publications previously held in his Department's library at New Scotland Yard are held at Chicksands; and to whom it is his intention to dispose of them. [183488]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* Some 80,000 books were transferred from the Ministry of Defence Library in New Scotland Yard to Chicksands. There is no intention to dispose of them.

Departmental Water Consumption/Spending

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department have spent on water and sewerage services in each year since 1997. [181374]

Mr. Caplin: I am withholding this information in accordance with Exemption 7a of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. This exemption relates to information whose disclosure could lead to improper gain or advantage or would prejudice the competitive position of the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes there has been in water consumption by his Department in each year from 1997 to date. [181420]

Mr. Caplin: Information on the Ministry of Defence total water consumption is not held centrally, however, current net water consumption is estimated at 24.2 million m^3 per annum. Comprehensive data collection processes are being establish through the MOD UK-wide Water and Wastewater Public Private Partnership Project (Project Aquatrine) and total water consumption will be reported in the Department's Sustainable Development Report from 2006.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the non-office sites within his Department's estates which have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings. [181421]

Mr. Caplin: The majority of sites on the Defence estate are categorised as non-office sites. The top 300 water consuming sites account for approximately 80 per cent. of the Ministry of Defence's water consumption. I will write to the hon. Member with a list of these sites and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the nature was of the consultation between the organising board of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and his Department; what response his Department gave; and if he make a statement. [182956]

Mr. Caplin: Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd is an independent registered company. Ministry of Defence involvement with the Company has been restricted to the provision of UK Service Personnel as performers, and in the provision of logistic support and military advice to the Board of Directors. Routine consultation on these matters takes place on a regular basis.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases against his Department, the agencies for which it is responsible and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [181474]

Mr. Caplin: The information, relating to applications made to employment tribunals, by current and former service personnel is set out as follows. Information relating to applications made by civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	New cases		
	Received	*Settled*	*Paid (£)*
Equal pay			
1997–98	17	6	51,000
1998–99	4	0	—
1999–2000	4	0	—
2000–01	10	0	—
2001–02	30	0	—
2002–03	9	0	—
2003–04	1	0	—

	New cases		
	Received	*Settled*	*Paid (£)*
Sex discrimination/harassment			
1997–98	138	21	444,614
1998–99	31	19	569,000
1999–2000	28	5	60,640
2000–01	21	10	78,500
2001–02	32	6	118,500
2002–03	24	11	182,478
2003–04	29	15	308,871
Race discrimination/harassment			
1997–98	14	0	—
1998–99	16	2	6,000
1999–2000	15	3	96,141
2000–01	12	7	97,500
2001–02	7	3	28,500
2002–03	10	5	104,500
2003–04	5	1	32,500
Unfair dismissal			
1997–98	0	0	—
1998–99	6	0	—
1999–2000	24	0	—
2000–01	19	0	—
2001–02	28	0	—
2002–03	12	1	12,500
2003–04	12	1	80,000
Legal costs			
1997–98	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998–99	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999–2000	—	—	316,890
2000–01	—	—	206,295
2001–02	—	—	549,265
2002–03	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003–04	—	—	792,865

Notes:

1. The figures relating to the number of settlements and compensation paid includes cases settled at employment tribunals and prior to such hearings. Claims relating to disability discrimination are not recorded separately.

2. The expenditure on sex discrimination/harassment cases excludes payments made to those service personnel dismissed from the armed forces on the grounds of their homosexuality and who brought claims at the employment tribunal and/or the European Court of Human Rights.

3. We cannot provide figures for the Department's legal costs in handling employment tribunal applications for 1997–98 and 1998–99. Likewise due to changes in internal accounting procedures it is not possible to separate legal costs in relation to employment tribunal cases from the overall legal costs incurred by MOD during financial year 2002–03.

4. Costs awards in employment tribunal are not common. Normally each party bears its own costs. However, where in the opinion of the tribunal, a party has in bringing the proceedings, or a party or a party's representatives has in conducting the proceedings, acted vexatiously, abusively, disruptively or otherwise unreasonably, or the bringing or conducting of the proceedings by a party has been misconceived, the tribunal may make an order in respect of all or part of the other party's costs.

Eurofighter

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the outcome of the negotiations concerning tranche 2 of the Eurofighter; and if he will make a statement. [183153]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1073–74, to the right hon. Member for Fylde (Mr. Jack).

European Defence Collaboration

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new agreements have been negotiated to augment the Six Nation Framework Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [182954]

Mr. Ingram: Since the Letter of Intent (LOI) Framework Agreement was signed in July 2000 the following implementing arrangements have been concluded:

(a) Security of Supply.

(b) Export Procedures (six nation signature process currently under way).

(c) Research and Technology.

(d) Transfer of Technical Information.

(e) Harmonisation of Military Requirements.

Additionally, an amendment to the Security procedures in the Framework Agreement was signed by all six nations earlier this year and an initial set of guidelines on export promotion has been agreed. Collectively, the Framework Agreement and these arrangements are designed to foster more efficient equipment and industrial cooperation with our European partners. The six LOI nations are now considering how to measure the benefits emerging from the implementation of the Framework Agreement.

Gibraltar

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what co-operation there has been between Spain and British forces stationed in Gibraltar on the illegal trafficking of people across the straits of Gibraltar. [182812]

Mr. Ingram: Preventing illegal immigration is primarily the responsibility of law enforcement agencies in the United Kingdom, Gibraltar and Spain. The UK is an active participant in the meetings and activities of the Western Sea Border Centre, which is led by Spain. The task of the centre is to develop and co-ordinate joint activity to strengthen the EU's external sea border with particular focus on the Western Mediterranean. However, illegal immigrants rarely attempt to land in Gibraltar, and any who are intercepted by British Forces Gibraltar are handed over to the Royal Gibraltar Police. British forces stationed in Gibraltar do not normally play a major role in this field.

International Traffic in Arms Regulations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the progress his Department has made in obtaining an International Traffic in Arms Regulations waiver for the UK from the US Administration; [182391]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with US Congressional leaders regarding an International Traffic in Arms Regulations waiver for the UK. [182383]

Mr. Hoon: Agreement was reached last year with the US Administration on the terms of a United Kingdom exemption from the International Traffic in Arms Regulations. Such an exemption requires the approval of the US Congress and the necessary draft legislation is under active consideration.

The Ministry of Defence has ensured that Congressional leaders who have responsibilities in this matter are fully aware of the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to having the ITAR exemption in place.

Iraq

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Iraq. [178204]

Mr. Hoon: The security situation in Iraq remains difficult, but progress is being made, with the Iraqi Government at the forefront of efforts to improve security. Almost 90,000 Iraqi police are on duty in Iraq, wherever possible taking the lead in providing security to their own people, and more are being trained. Prime Minister Allawi said in a recent statement

> "I have full confidence in the ability of our security forces and in our international partners provided they have the support of the Iraqi people. It is the duty of every citizen to help bring security to Iraq."

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed of investigations into activities of US personnel at Abu Ghraib prison; and what response he has made. [171421]

Mr. Ingram: Investigations of alleged offences of US personnel are a matter for the US Government.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 4–5WS, on Iraq, when he received the correct number of investigations into civilian deaths, injuries or alleged ill-treatment; and when he provided this information to the Prime Minister. [179016]

Mr. Ingram: I received the information, and provided it to the Prime Minister, on 8 June.

Mr. Dawson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals have served in the UK armed forces in the Second Gulf War. [179277]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 June 2004]:* Around 45,000 troops were deployed in the initial stages of Operation Telic. Since 1 May 2003 around 25,000 troops have been deployed, bringing the total to around 70,000. There have been three major troop handovers since 1 May 2003, so the total figure given is an estimate. The three roulements have each involved around 8,500 personnel, but this number does not account for repeat or extended tours, nor battle casualty replacements.

Future Joint Combat Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects the Future Joint Combat Aircraft to be delivered *(a)* on time and *(b)* within budget. [182386]

Mr. Ingram: Against current planning assumptions, it is expected that the Future Joint Combat Aircraft will be delivered on time.

It is currently estimated that the Future Joint Combat Aircraft Demonstration phase approval will be exceeded by around £340 million. This estimate has been identified following a thorough review some three years into the phase, using the systematic processes of Smart Acquisition. Without losing the benefits of the process, we are currently examining ways to bring the phase back to within current approval levels by the end of March 2005. The figure is not connected to the recent rise in the cost of the JSF System Demonstration and Development phase, the UK's contribution to which is fixed.

Llanbedr Airfield

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when Llanbedr airfield will be closed; and what will happen to its staff when it closes. [183113]

Mr. Caplin: It is planned that operations at the Llanbedr airfield will cease on 31 October 2004. Following this, there will be a site closure programme, with formal handover to Defence Estates planned for 11 February 2005. All 144 staff at Llanbedr have been given notice of redundancy. It is expected that approximately 90 staff will be made redundant on 5 November 2004, with the remaining staff being made redundant on 11 February 2005. QinetiQ, the company operating activities on the site on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, has appointed Right Courts consultancy to assist the staff in finding alternative employment, including within the company where suitable vacancies exist.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the range at Aberporth will be viable without the pilotless target drones from Llanbedr. [183114]

Mr. Caplin: Yes, it will. The drones at Llanbedr, aerial target towing vehicles known as the Jindivik, will be replaced by the Mirach target service, a modern pilotless aircraft which does not require a runway launch and which will be operated from Aberporth itself.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use he plans will be made of the long runway at Llanbedr; and whether it will be used by commercial traffic. [183115]

Mr. Caplin: A range of options for future use of the site will be considered which may include use by commercial traffic.

Management Groups

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the responsibilities of the *(a)* Personnel Director, *(b)* Pay and Personnel Agency, *(c)* Defence Vetting Agency, *(d)* Defence Export Services Organisation, *(e)* Finance Director, *(f)* Defence Analytical Services Agency, *(g)* Defence Bills Agency, *(h)* Chief Constable MOD Police and *(i)* Chief Scientific Adviser management groups. [181745]

Mr. Caplin: Most defence activity takes place outside the Ministry of Defence Head Office and is managed through 12 Top Level Budget (TLB) holders and five Trading Funds. The Permanent Secretary grants each TLB-holder extensive delegated powers over his/her resources of cash, personnel and infrastructure. Each TLB holder has a 'contract' with the MOD head office, known as a Service Delivery Agreement, which specifies the outputs required of that TLB, the resources they are

given to deliver these outputs, and the underpinning performance management regime. The responsibilities of the management groupings are listed as follows:

(a) The Personnel Director is the budget holder for the Corporate Services Higher Level Budget and chairs its management board. The Personnel Director is responsible for a wide range of important management functions and related corporate services for the MOD as a whole. As the post title suggests, there is a particular responsibility for the Ministry's corporate HR strategy and management of its almost 90,000 civilian staff.

(b) The Pay and Personnel Agency provides a pay and personnel information service to the MOD and other customers in the public sector.

(c) The Defence Vetting Agency aims to provide an acceptable level of assurance as to the integrity of Defence employees and Defence industry staff who are given authorised access to sensitive Government information or valuable assets.

(d) The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) has an important role in implementing the Government's policy of supporting legitimate defence exports. DESO provides assistance to United Kingdom defence companies and to overseas customers interested in acquiring UK defence products.

(e) The Finance Director is responsible for the Department's planning, finance and performance management processes. He also acts as 'owner' of the Defence Analytical Services Agency and the Defence Bills Agency.

(f) The Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) provides professional analytical and statistical services and advice to the Ministry of Defence and defence-related statistics to Parliament, other Government Departments and the public. DASA is responsible for publishing all National Statistics on defence and these can be found on our website www.dasa.mod.uk.

(g) The Defence Bills Agency (DBA) carries out the following functions for the Ministry of Defence: Corporate bill payment and invoicing and debt management services, provision of accounting records for the MOD central ledger and associated financial management information for MOD customers. Further information can be found in the DBA annual report and accounts which is available in the Library of the House of Commons.

(h) The Chief Constable and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency is responsible for the prevention of crime within the MOD estate. In addition the Force has special responsibility for the policing and security of key areas of Defence and other organisations, including the Crown.

(i) The 3* Defence Science and Technology (S&T) Board, chaired by the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), provides high level strategic guidance on the formulation of the S&T Research Programme, conducts Balance of Investment within the Programme and reviews its delivery. It also supports CSA in ensuring that the benefits arising from S&T expenditure are clearly understood across the Department, and focused on the Department's needs. A subset of the S&T Board is responsible for overseeing the in-year management of the Corporate Science, Innovation and Technology TLB, top-level performance assessment and consideration of audit reports. Day to day management of the TLB is delegated to the S&T Director, supported by a management group which meets on a monthly basis.

Further information on individual defence agencies is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's top level budget holders and their related management groupings for financial year 2004–05. [181771]

Mr. Ingram: The Management Grouping structure for the financial year 2004–05 is as follows:

Top Level Budget	*Management Groupings*
Commander-in-Chief Fleet	Fleet
General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland)	General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland)
Commander-in-Chief Land Command	Command Field Army
	Joint Helicopter Command
	Land Support
	Command Regional Forces
Air Officer Commanding-in Chief RAF Strike Command	1 Group
	2 Group
	3 Group
Chief of Joint Operations	Deputy Commander-in-Chief
	British Forces Cyprus
	Permanent Joint Headquarters
	British Forces Falkland Islands
	British Forces Gibraltar
	Sovereign Base Areas Administration
Chief of Defence Logistics	Defence Fuels Group
	Defence Communication Services Agency
	DG Equipment Support(Land)
	DG Equipment Support(Air)
	Defence Transport and Movements Agency
	Deputy Chief of Defence Logistics
	Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency
	Defence Supply Chain HQ
	Defence Storage and Distribution Agency
	British Forces Post Office
	Warship Support Agency
2nd Sea Lord/Commander-in Chief Naval Home Command	Flag Officer Training and Recruiting HQ
Adjutant General	Army Personnel Centre

Top Level Budget	*Management Groupings*
	Army Training and Recruiting Agency
	Service Children's Education
	Army Primary Health Care Service
	Deputy Adjutant General HLB
	Army Programme
	General Staff
	QVS
	DYRMS
Air Officer Commanding-in Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	Personnel Management Agency
	Training Group Defence Agency
Central	Core HQ
	Personnel Director
	Pay and Personnel Agency
	Defence Vetting Agency
	Defence Export Services Organisation
	Finance Director
	Defence Analytical Services Agency
	Defence Bills Agency
	Chief Constable MOD Police
	Defence Academy
	Defence Estates
	Deputy Chief Defence Staff (Personnel)
	Deputy Chief Defence Staff (Health)
	Director Special Forces
	Defence Geographic and imaging Intelligence Agency
	Veterans Agency
	Defence Dental Agency
	Defence Housing Executive
	Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency
	Chief of Defence Intelligence
	Defence Intelligence and Security Centre
	Defence Medical Education and Training Agency
	Head Office
	Policy and Commitments
	Director General Intelligence Collection
Defence Procurement Agency	Nuclear
	Programme Account
Corporate Science and Technology	Corporate Science and Technology

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each minister on official departmental business. [181859]

Mr. Caplin: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the government has published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All Ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Operation Harangue

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what quantity of arms, ammunition and other materials have been recovered in the course of Operation Harangue; from which barracks the stolen items originated, broken down by type; and what subsequent action has been taken against the individuals concerned. [181620]

Mr. Caplin: A total of 81 suspected firearms have been seized, the authenticity of which, have yet to be established. This includes an amount of component parts, firing pins, gun barrels and a silencer. Approximately 12,000 rounds of varying types of ammunition were recovered but the majority are believed to be blank. However, with other items seized, live rounds could be manufactured. A quantity of explosive substances was recovered much of which was attributable to fireworks. However, substances of a Hazard Classification code 1.1 and 1.2 were recovered and have been forwarded for forensic examination to establish classification. An amount of suspected Ministry of Defence property has also been seized, including operational ration packs, a 94 mm Rocket System indoor training aid, clothing, camouflage netting, hexamine cookers, rucksacks and pump assemblies. Because inquiries are at an early stage, it is not possible to give exact numbers or to specify where the items may have come from.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181344]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence currently has a four year pay deal operating from 2002–05. There has therefore been no substantial change to MOD's pay system since 2002. There are no plans to place the MOD pay deal in the Library.

There are seven executive non-departmental public bodies sponsored by MOD. They are given grants-in-aid from which they pay staff in line with affordability, recruitment, retention and motivation of staff and the public sector pay climate. There are no plans to place their pay details in the Library.

The Ministry of Defence, in common with all other Government Departments, conducted an equal pay audit following the publication of the report by the Equal Opportunities Commission Equal Pay Task Force, "Just Pay", in March 2001. The outcome of the audit, including an initial action plan, was notified to the Cabinet Office in April 2003. MOD was satisfied that its policy had not directly discriminated on gender grounds. We did however propose further work on a number of issues and these were detailed in the initial action plan at the end of the report. Discussions are to take place with the Cabinet Office, and, once concluded, a copy of the final MOD action plan will be placed in the Library.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what have been identified as the most signifieant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of the estate of his Department's Estate pursuant to the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181295]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence has identified its most significant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of its Estate which also reflect the Department's focus on delivering operational capability and sustainability.

16 headline indicators, representing MOD's most significant sustainable development impacts, have been identified and agreed by MOD's Sustainable Development Steering Group.

These impacts are grouped in five main categories, namely: Sustainable Development and Environmental Management in Defence; Environmental Protection in Defence; Defence as an Employer; Defence in the Wider Community and the Impact of Defence on the UK economy.

The headline indicators are:

Economic Impacts: acquisition; Environmental Impacts: appraisal; environmental management systems; heritage; biodiversity; water; energy and travel; waste; contaminated land; nuclear materials; Social Impacts: Investors in People; health, safety and well being; diversity work/life balance; community involvement and volunteering.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps have been taken by his Department following the issue of the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate to review arrangements for public reporting of sustainable development impacts; [181416]

(2) what arrangements his Department has following the issue of the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate to report publicly on its key sustainable development impacts. [181417]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence already publishes its Annual Report and Accounts, as well as a Stewardship Report on the Defence Estate. In the past, the Department has also published an annual health and safety, environment, and fire (SHEF) report. All of these reports include some information on sustainable development issues.

The MOD has reviewed its arrangements for the public reporting of its sustainable development impacts in line with the requirements set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate.

As a result of that review, the Ministry of Defence will publish its own Sustainable Development Report on an annual basis beginning in autumn 2004. A copy of that report will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes there have been in *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* single occupancy car commuting by his Department's staff against the baseline year identified in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181418]

Mr. Caplin: Information on changes in Ministry of Defence road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and single occupancy car commuting is being collated as part of the Department's contribution to the Government's Sustainable Development in Government report for the financial year 2003–04. The information will also be included in the first annual Ministry of Defence Sustainable Development report. Both of these reports will be published in the autumn, and copies of each will be placed in the Library of the House.

Watermark Project

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has joined the Watermark project. [181419]

Mr. Caplin: I can confirm that the Royal Navy, Army, RAF, Defence Logistic Organisation and Defence Estates have either submitted data to Watermark or continue to maintain contact with the project.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Abuse

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representatives of the alcohol industry he met on 28 June; what topics were discussed; what plans he has for further meetings; what other organisations with an interest in alcohol harm reduction he has met over the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [182790]

Ms Blears: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport met with a range of trade associations and companies in the alcohol industry on

28 June. The round table discussion was about the contribution that the industry can make to changing the culture of binge drinking and reducing the crime and disorder that is associated with it.

The meeting included representatives from pub and club chains, trade associations, manufacturers and the off-trade.

As part of the implementation of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, and in the wider course of my ministerial duties, I have met with a variety of organisations with an interest in alcohol harm reduction. These include the alcohol industry, the police, and others, at both the national and the local level.

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has investigated the role played by off-licences in levels of antisocial behaviour in urban communities; what plans he has to target irresponsible off-licence retailers; and if he will make a statement. [182791]

Ms Blears: One of the four main strands of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England is work with the alcohol industry to reduce the violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol misuse. The Strategy clearly indicates that this includes the off-trade. All retailers will be strongly encouraged to sign up to the national social responsibility scheme which is currently being drawn up in consultation with the on and off-trade.

The summer enforcement campaign, led by the Home Office Police Standards Unit and the Association of Chief Police Officers, will target those selling alcohol irresponsibly and those selling illegally to under-18s. This will include off-licences and supermarkets.

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has to introduce additional measures to tackle underage street drinking in residential areas; and if he will make a statement. [182792]

Ms Blears: The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, published on 15 March recognises the importance of tackling underage drinking.

The Government have strengthened the legal framework preventing the sale of alcohol to under-18s, and introduced a clear set of options for tackling under-age drinkers including fixed penalty notices for drunk and disorderly behaviour by 16 to 17-year-olds and antisocial behaviour orders. We need to make sure that these existing powers are used effectively.

The alcohol misuse enforcement campaign was launched on 8 July and will run throughout the summer. The police and trading standards officers will use a variety of tactics to clamp down on those selling alcohol irresponsibly, including 'sting' operations sending under-18s into off-licences to buy alcohol. Underage sales will also be addressed through the forthcoming social responsibility scheme for alcohol retailers.

The Government have strengthened the powers available to tackle the particular problem of underage street drinking. Section 155 of the Licensing Act 2003 came into force in September 2003 and extended police powers to confiscate alcohol from young people drinking and causing a nuisance in public places, allowing for the confiscation of sealed containers as well as open containers.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are to be introduced to tackle the problem of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. [182296]

Ms Blears: The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was published on 15 March. It makes a wide variety of recommendations and those specifically focused on antisocial behaviour include the need for greater use of exclusion orders to ban those causing trouble from pubs and clubs or entire town centres; encouraging the full use of acceptable behaviour contracts and antisocial behaviour orders to tackle unacceptable behaviour and greater use of the new fixed penalty notices to clamp down on drunk and disorderly behaviour. Additionally, the Home Office Police Standards Unit, working in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers, have invited forces and other partners from across the country to take part in a co-ordinated programme of enforcement and initiatives to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. The campaign will target the irresponsible few who encourage underage and binge drinking and will also focus on tackling drunken behaviour.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been imposed by the courts at the same time that they have passed a sentence for a criminal conviction in each year since 2002; [175134]

(2) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been applied for by *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* the British Transport police in each year since 2002; [175135]

(3) how many antisocial behaviour orders that apply throughout the country have been issued in each year since 2002; [175136]

(4) how many interim antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each year since 2002 in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each county; [175138]

(5) what the average duration was of antisocial behaviour orders issued in each year since 1999; [175140]

(6) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been breached in each year since 1999; and how many of those were punished with *(a)* fines and *(b)* prison sentences; [175142]

(7) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each year since 1999 in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each county. [175143]

Ms Blears: From 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data on the number of Anti- social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued was collected by police force area. From 1 June 2000 official statistics are based on quarterly returns

from Magistrates' Courts Committees (MCCs). Since 2 December 2002, following implementation of the Police Reform Act, data are also collected from the Crown court and the county courts. Available information is given in the tables and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested by the police for immigration offences in each of the last five years. [181506]

Mr. Browne: Information collected centrally on arrests is for 'notifiable' offence groups only. Those immigration offences that are 'notifiable' are included under the "Other" offence group and cannot be identified separately.

Bichard Inquiry Report

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the legal costs relating to action to suspend the Chief Constable of Humberside from office; and if he will make a statement. [181822]

Ms Blears: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's decision to require Humberside Police Authority to suspend Chief Constable David Westwood was upheld in the High Court on Friday 2 July. If Humberside Police Authority had carried out its legal duty when required to do so, there would have been no costs, as acknowledged by Mr. Justice Stanley Brunton at the High Court hearing on Friday 2 July. The Police Authority has been ordered to pay the Secretary of State the costs of these proceedings. The Secretary of State will be seeking full reimbursement of these costs, which will be either agreed between the parties or assessed by the court, in the normal way.

Bulgaria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the consequences of the recent suspension of all immigration claims from Bulgaria in terms of freedom of movement; [178848]

(2) what the British policy is on applications for business visas from Bulgaria; [178849]

(3) whether the European Community Association Agreement applies to Bulgarian nationals. [178850]

Mr. Browne: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on the handling of European Community Association Agreement (ECAA) applicants made by my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary on 17 June 2004.

Bulgarian nationals are not nationals of a European Union member state and hence do not benefit from freedom of movement. They do, however, have privileged access to establishment rights by virtue of an Association Agreement with the European Union.

The temporary suspension of the arrangements for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals making visa and immigration applications under managed migration schemes, including the self-employed under the Association Agreements, is a matter of regret. However, the Government believes that it was the only sensible course of action in the circumstances and crucial to public confidence in the integrity of the UK immigration system.

Applications from self-employed Bulgarian nationals under the ECAA scheme remain suspended while the recommendations of the Button investigation are implemented and the new approach is put in place for the consideration of these applications.

Applications from Bulgaria are currently accepted under all other immigration categories including business visitor, Innovator and the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme.

CCTV (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much public money has been spent on CCTV cameras in *(a)* Warrington as a whole and *(b)* Warrington, North constituency since 1997. [182773]

Ms Blears: In 2001–02, the Home Office provided £31,700 to Warrington borough council towards the WATCH scheme (Warrington Action Towards Community Harmony), a borough-wide project for the supply of a mobile CCTV suite with equipment, which is deployed as necessary, including in the Warrington, North constituency.

This money represents the only direct CCTV funding to Warrington, however crime reduction funding has been allocated to local Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Basic Command Units to enable them to tackle local crime priorities using a number of interventions, including CCTV. Allocation of that funding locally is a matter for Warrington borough council and the Greater Manchester Police.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter dated 29 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Geoff Schofield, transferred to him from the Department for Transport. [178950]

Mr. Blunkett: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 23 June.

Crime Reduction Projects (Warrington, North)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much public funding has been spent on crime reduction projects in Warrington, North in each year since 1997. [182774]

Ms Blears: Allocation of crime reduction funding is not broken down by constituency. However, money allocated overall to the Borough of Warrington for crime reduction through a number of funding streams and for a range of projects totals £1,218,877 over the period 2000–05. Figures before 2000 are not readily available.

Deaths in Custody

Mr. Stinchcombe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have died in custody since 1974; in which institution each person was being held, and for what mental health condition or criminal offence; how many of those being detained for a criminal offence had been convicted of that offence; for what offences; and what the length of sentence was in each case. [177597]

Paul Goggins: Not all the information requested was collected or collated or is readily retrievable, particularly for the earlier years covered by this Question. I will write to my hon. Friend with as much information as officials from the Prison Service, Police, Immigration and Nationality Directorate and Department of Health can gather, within the bounds of proportionate cost.

Departmental Properties/Staff

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many properties are rented by his Department; and at what annual cost. [181507]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office is currently renting 1,327 properties at a total rent of £83.7 million per annum excluding VAT. This excludes premises that are not rented but taken under service agreements and those where costs are shared with other Government Departments where the other Department pays the rent.

There are a variety of reasons for renting rather than purchasing offices, which includes cost, availability, sustainability and flexibility. Many leases are for parts of other buildings including accommodation at ports where purchase would not be a practical option.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the accommodation of departmental staff who cannot be housed in the Marsham street building, with reference to the National Audit Office report "PFI: The New Headquarters for the Home Office". [181511]

Fiona Mactaggart: The National Audit Office Report "PFI: The New Headquarters for the Home Office" published last year noted that it was very unlikely that all core Home Office and Prison Service staff could be housed in 2 Marsham street. There are a number of issues under consideration including the impact of Home Office reform and the potential for relocation of staff including the Headquarters of the National Offender Management Service away from London and the South-East. Final decisions on the housing of staff in 2 Marsham Street when it is ready for occupation in January 2005 will be taken later this year.

Drug Treatment (Prisons)

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* medical and *(b)* policy advice his Department gave to HM Inspector of Prisons in advance of her statement on drugs treatment in UK prisons. [180109]

Paul Goggins: None. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons has its own specialist health care and drug service inspectors, who are in contact with relevant Home Office, Prison Service and external expert bodies.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings have taken place between the Chief Inspector of Prisons and the National Treatment Agency to discuss drugs treatment in prison. [180110]

Paul Goggins: None. However, the Inspectorate's Head of Health Care Inspection has met with the National Treatment Agency on a number of occasions to discuss drug treatment in prisons.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings have taken place between the Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Royal College of General Practitioners to discuss drugs treatment. [180111]

Paul Goggins: None.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings have taken place between the Chief Inspector of Prisons and the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [180112]

Paul Goggins: None.

Environmental Sustainability

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of electricity used by buildings in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has come from renewable sources for each year from 1997 to date. [182217]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Home Office has traditionally collected and reported its energy consumption and cost figures in two constituent parts: The prison estate and the non-prison estate. Good progress has been made in both areas, particularly in the non-prison estate. The proportion of renewable electricity used for both estates is as follows:

Percentage

	Non-prison	*Prison*
1996–97	0	0
1997–98	0	0
1998–99	0	0
1999–2000	0	0
2000–01	10	0
2001–02	59	0
2002–03	69	5
2003–04	Not yet known	7

The non-prison figures relate to key buildings in the core Home Office, the Forensic Science Service and UK Passport Agency. The figures do not include any Home Office sponsored non departmental public bodies. To extract separate figures for the Forensic Science Service and UK Passport Agency could have been done only at a disproportionate cost.

Fireworks

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in tackling the issue of noisy night-time fireworks. [174849]

Ms Blears: The Department for Trade and Industry launched a formal consultation on 23 April 2004, which details proposed Regulations to be made under the provisions of the Fireworks Act 2003. One of the

proposed measures is to create a curfew on the use of fireworks between the hours of 11 pm to 7 am, with the exception of November 5, new years eve, Chinese new year and Diwali.

Graffiti

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources are being provided to tackle graffiti in Bath and North East Somerset. [182500]

Ms Blears: Whilst no specific funding is being provided by the Home Office to tackle graffiti in Bath and North Somerset, we have provided funding to every Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to improve response to anti-social behaviour, including enviro-damage such as graffiti. This included Bath North East Somerset CDRP who received £25.000.

I would also like to welcome the work that Bath Graffiti Partnership has undertaken to tackle graffiti and identify best practice. Furthermore we are currently piloting new powers that enable local authorities to issue clean-up notices to owners of 'street furniture' and public transport providers in 12 areas. This was commenced on 31 March, and we will look at wider rollout of these powers after evaluation of the pilots.

Mobile Phone Crime

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the Department has issued to mobile telephone retailers on making customers aware of the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit registration service when buying new telephones. [182713]

Ms Blears: The Home Office, police forces and the mobile phone industry work closely in partnership to tackle mobile phone theft as an important part of our Street Crime Initiative, which has delivered a 17 per cent. reduction in robbery in 2002–03 and further reductions in 2003–04. As part of this programme of work, the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit was established in December 2003.

Over the past two months, the Unit, as part of its work, has piloted a phone register in four London boroughs. The register helps the police to return recovered lost or stolen mobile phones to their owner. The register can also be used by the police in operations to tackle mobile phone theft. We are now considering, with the police and the mobile phone industry, how to make best use of the register.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a risk assessment has been carried out into the implications of the National Offender Management Service. [179151]

Paul Goggins: As part of the setting up of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), a comprehensive risk management strategy has been established, providing for the assessment, monitoring and managing of risks across the Change Programme. Risk assessments are currently being undertaken at detail and strategic level, results from which are reported to the NOMS Board and to other governance bodies within the Home Office. The Change Programme will also be subject to a Gateway Review.

Police Crime Recording Practices

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist for the internal auditing of crime recording practices in the police to ensure that crimes are assigned to the appropriate offence category. [182094]

Ms Blears: Decisions on assigning crimes to the appropriate crime category are governed by Home Office Counting Rules. In accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard, each force has appointed a Force Crime Registrar, with a range of duties that include ensuring that the Home Office counting rules are followed correctly, and developing audit programmes within their force.

Police forces have been issued with guidance on how to perform self-audit of crime data. This covers the arrangements for managing crime recording and sets out how to make checks of casework, including classification of crime by offence category.

Additionally, the Audit Commission is working in partnership with the Police Standards Unit to perform an external review of forces' compliance with crime recording rules. A report on the quality assurance of crime data is planned around the end of 2004.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

DNA Testing

15. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria are used to determine which applicants for entry clearance are required to undertake a DNA test. [183369]

Mr. Mullin: DNA tests are not compulsory but can be used as a last resort in settlement applications where there is no reliable documentary evidence available to support the claimed relationship between the visa applicant and the sponsor. Guidance on DNA testing is available on the UKvisas website.

Nepal

16. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on human rights in Nepal. [183370]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We regularly voice concern about violence and abuse against civilians by Government and Maoists in Nepal. At the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights the UK helped secure a chairman's statement which called for improved human rights in Nepal and welcomed Nepal's formal commitment to achieve this. Through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool we provide human rights training for the Nepalese security forces, and support for the National Human Rights Commission and other human rights organisations.

Hong Kong

17. **Mr. Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his assessment of the political situation in Hong Kong. [183371]

Mr. Rammell: The political situation in Hong Kong continues to be dominated by the debate about constitutional reform. Over the coming weeks the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is due to continue its consultation of the Hong Kong people and then come forward with proposals for constitutional development. It is important that there should be calm and open dialogue between all sections of Hong Kong opinion, the SAR Government and the central Government in Beijing on these reforms.

Horn of Africa

18. **Tony Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in the Horn of Africa. [183372]

Mr. Mullin: Relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea are tense. The UK, bilaterally and with European Union partners, will continue to press Ethiopia to accept the Boundary Commission decision, which is final and binding, and to press Eritrea to participate in the comprehensive political dialogue proposed by the Secretary General's Special Envoy.

European Constitution

19. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the effect of the Constitutional Treaty on trade unions. [183373]

Mr. MacShane: The EU Constitutional Treaty's social and employment policy provisions are largely unaltered when compared to previous treaties. Article I-47 specifically recognises the role of social partners, that is to say the representatives of employers and trade unions, at European Union level, and institutionalises the Tripartite Social Summit. The Government welcome the reaffirmation of the social dimension to the European Union which is why they signed the Social Chapter in 1997.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 429W, on the EU Constitution, if he will list those other areas of government activity which would remain wholly and exclusively the responsibility of the British Government; and where these areas are listed in official documents. [183531]

Mr. MacShane: Article 1-9 of the Constitution makes it clear that competences not conferred upon the Union remain with the member states. The Constitution does not itself provide a list of those areas of government activity because it is a treaty between nation states, the purpose of which is to confer competences on the Union (as Article 1-1 of the Constitution makes clear) and not to list the powers which remain wholly and exclusively the responsibility of member states. All previous EU treaties have been the same in this respect.

Iraq

20. **Mr. Best:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the trial of Saddam Hussein. [183374]

Mr. Rammell: Saddam Hussein was brought before an Iraqi investigative judge of the Central Criminal Court of Iraq on 30 June. He faced a range of charges dating back as far as 1974. The investigation process will now begin and proceedings will be transferred to the Iraq Special Tribunal.

Iran

21. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on relations with Iran. [183375]

Mr. Rammell: The UK's relations with Iran are based on a policy of constructive, but critical and conditional, engagement. We aim to support Iranian efforts to reform, while making clear our serious concerns about Iran's policies in areas such as its nuclear programme, the fight on terrorism, human rights and attitude to the Middle East Peace Process.

Guantanamo Bay

22. **Geraint Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to secure the speedy return of Mr. Feroz Abbasi from Guantanamo Bay; and if he will make a statement on prospects for the return of Mr. Abbasi by early November. [183377]

Mr. Mullin: The Government's discussions with the US authorities about the situation of the remaining four British nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay, including Mr. Abbasi, are continuing. It would be artificial to set deadlines for the conclusion of our discussions.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Solicitor-General's oral answer of 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 434, if the UK Government will seek the commencement of proceedings in the US courts in the case of the four UK citizens held without trial in Guantanamo Bay. [182488]

Mr. Mullin *[holding answer 6 July 2004]*: Commencement of such proceedings is a matter for the four British nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay and lawyers acting on their behalf.

Saudi Arabia

23. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what efforts are being made to encourage the development of democracy in Saudi Arabia. [183378]

Mr. Mullin: We are active in encouraging peaceful reform and change in Saudi Arabia, including through discussion with the Saudi Government and have a bilateral programme of activities.

The UK was also instrumental in promoting the recently agreed G8 Plan of Support for the region and in developing a new EU strategy of assistance for change and modernisation throughout the region.

Africa (Great Lakes)

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa. [183359]

Mr. Mullin: We remain concerned by the situation in the Great Lakes region. Relations between the DRC and Rwanda remain tense. During my visit to the region in June, I urged all sides to sustain their support for the peace process and to resolve their differences through dialogue and confidence-building measures. My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for International Development have spoken and written similarly to Presidents Kagame and Kabila.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Article III 157(3) of the proposed European Constitution will apply to Diego Garcia. [183506]

Mr. MacShane: No.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when he will reply to the letter to him dated 25 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Farida Begum; [182462]

(2) when he intends to reply to the letter to him dated 25 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Farida Begum. [183688]

Mr. Mullin: I apologise for the delay in replying. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary sent a reply on 8 July.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask UKvisas to reply to the letter dated 26 May from the hon. Member for Aylesbury about Mr. M of Zimbabwe (case reference numbers TH/M4527/001 and M1196661). [183131]

Mr. Mullin: Ukvisas replied to the hon. Member on 8 July. I apologise for the delay.

Corruption Convention

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has *(a)* to ratify the UN Convention against Corruption and *(b)* to seek to join the Conference of State Parties; and if he will make a statement. [183440]

Mr. MacShane: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 27 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1761W.

The UK will become a member of the Conference of State Parties automatically once it has ratified the Convention.

Eritrea

Jonathan Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Eritrea on promoting a dialogue with Ethiopia on the distribution of land following the Boundary Commission's recommendations. [182377]

Mr. Mullin: I met Eritrean President Isaias in Asmara on 15 January and urged him to engage in a dialogue with Ethiopia on all of the issues separating the two countries. The EU presidency has reiterated this message, both directly and in writing, over the last six months.

Jonathan Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the account the Boundary Commission of Ethiopia and Eritrea took of the human geography of the region in drawing the final border. [182378]

Mr. Mullin: The Government are satisfied that the Boundary Commission fulfilled the mandate that it was given and that its decision is final and binding on both Ethiopia and Eritrea. There is, however, nothing to stop the parties from agreeing to amend the boundary to take account of realities on the ground, providing they both agree.

Hague Convention

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the depositing by all EU states at the same time of their instruments of ratification of the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction Applicable Law Recognition Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children is not prevented by differences between the UK and Spain over Gibraltar; and if he will make a statement. [183668]

Mr. MacShane: The Government fully supports the ratification of the 1996 Hague Convention by all EU member states. That process is currently on hold because Spain has questioned the arrangements for communications under this convention with competent authorities in Gibraltar. The Government are eager to overcome this obstacle, but any way forward must respect the arrangements relating to Gibraltar authorities in the context of EU and EC instruments and related treaties which were agreed between the UK and Spain in April 2000.

PRIME MINISTER

Baronetcy

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy not to recommend to Her Majesty the Queen the creation of hereditary baronetcies. [183815]

The Prime Minister: No. However, no hereditary baronetcies have been recommended since 1991.

Youth Parliament

Charles Hendry: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to meet representatives of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. [183949]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attitude Surveys

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb), of 23 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1438–40W, on attitude surveys, if he will place in the Library a list of the questions on the Public Perception of Child Support and the Child Support Agency that were included in the Office for National Statistics Omnibus Survey in March. [182056]

Mr. Pond: A full list of the questions on Public Perceptions of Child Support and the Child Support Agency as included in the March 2004 Office for National Statistics Omnibus Survey will be published in the DWP report on the survey's findings. The report will be published in early Autumn 2004.

Child Support (Driving Licence Removal)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost of enforcing the removal of driving licences from non-compliant non-resident parents under the provisions introduced by the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000. [182125]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. David Willetts, dated 13 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his department has made of the cost of enforcing the removal of driving licences from non-compliant non-resident parents under the provisions introduced by the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000.

I am unable to disaggregate the costs for removing driving licences from people who fail to pay child support from the Agency's overall administration costs, as this information is not available. I can however say that in the year to 31 March 2004 the Agency deployed around 200 staff on its more complex enforcement work at a direct cost of approximately £3.6 million.

Filestore (Nelson)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people working at the Department's filestore in Nelson have indicated a preference for redeployment within the civil service rather than transfer to Capita on 1 August; and if he will make a statement. [183519]

Jane Kennedy: Of the 97 staff currently employed at the site, there are 10 remaining who have indicated a preference for redeployment within the civil service rather than transfer to Capita on 1 August. Efforts are continuing to find suitable positions for those who wish to remain within the civil service, however Capita have indicated that they would expect to have long-term employment opportunities for all of those who transfer to them in August.

Income Support

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government plans to remove the limit on hours for education and unwaged training in income support. [182097]

Mr. Pond: Full-time students (those studying for 16 hours or more) will normally access financial support through the education system and we have no plans to change this. In certain limited circumstances a student may be eligible for income support; for example if they are a lone parent or they are disabled.

Any customer who satisfies the qualifying conditions for income support and is classed as undertaking education or unwaged training would not be subject to a limit on the number of hours that they participate in such activities.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government plans to remove the distinction between education and unwaged training in the eligibility for income support. [182101]

Mr. Pond: People undertaking full time education will normally access financial support through the education system, which provides, for example, Student Loans and Access Funds in order to meet everyday living expenses.

Unwaged training is usually work focused and is available through a variety of service providers. The funding for these providers only covers provision for training and does not include financial support for the trainee, in which case income support is available for eligible people.

The distinction between this form of training and full time education for the purposes of income support reflects the access to alternative financial support that people in education have and we have no plans to change this.

Jobcentre Plus

Dr. Jack Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the progress of developing Jobcentre Plus in Cumbria. [182809]

Jane Kennedy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, David Anderson. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from David Anderson to Dr. Jack Cunningham, dated 13 July 2004:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning the progress of developing Jobcentre Plus in Cumbria. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am pleased to tell you that Cumbria District is part of the 2003/2004 Roll-Out Programme and by October 2004, Cumbria District will be operating a full range of Jobcentre Plus services.

Cumbria currently has a full range of face to face services established in Carlisle, Maryport, Workington, Penrith, Keswick, Cockermouth, Cleator Moor, Millom, Ulverston, Kendal and Barrow. The joint Private Finance Initiative with Copeland Borough Council is on target to provide Whitehaven with a new Jobcentre Plus office in October 2004.

The plan for Jobcentre Plus in Cumbria has included the closure of the former Jobcentre sites in Kendal and Windermere. However, a new Jobcentre Plus site was opened in Kendal on 19 April 2004. Customers from Windermere still have access to Jobcentre Plus services by the provision of a Jobpoint and Customer Access Phones based within Ambleside Library.

I have asked the acting District Manager for Cumbria Jobcentre Plus to keep you informed of progress.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the initial start-up costs and *(b)* ongoing administration costs, broken down by (i) paybill and (ii) other at the Jobcentre Plus Dundee call centre. [183172]

Jane Kennedy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, David Anderson. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from David Anderson to Mr. Boris Johnson, dated 13 July 2004:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning the initial start up costs and ongoing administration costs at the Jobcentre Plus Dundee Contact Centre. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In answer to your specific question, building work is still ongoing within the site and the current estimate of start-up costs are £2.327m. The ongoing full-year administration costs are estimated to be in the region of £2.818m for the pay bill and £0.745m for other costs.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* severe disablement allowance who found work made a subsequent claim for one of those benefits in the following six months broken down by (i) all adults, (ii) adults aged 16 to 24, (iii) adults aged 25 to 49 and (iv) adults aged 50 years to state pension age in the last period for which figures are available. [181112]

Mr. Pond: The available information is in the tables.

People leaving jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance on finding work, March 2002 to February 2003

Thousand

	Number of claimants ending their claim to		
	Jobseeker's allowance	*Incapacity benefit*	*Severe disablement allowance*
All ages	746.1	23.5	0.6
Claimant aged 16–24	231.0	0.9	[1]0.1
Claimant aged 25–49	413.6	13.3	0.5
Claimant aged 50 and over	101.5	9.3	—

Proportion of people returning to benefit within six months of ending a previous claim, March 2002 to February 2003

Percentage

	People returning to benefit within six months of ending their claim to		
	Jobseeker's allowance	*Incapacity benefit*	*Severe disablement allowance*
All ages	37.6	16.8	[1]16.7
Claimant aged 16–24	43.1	[1]23.3	n/a
Claimant aged 25–49	35.6	15.9	[1]16.0
Claimant aged 50 and over	33.3	17.4	n/a

Persons leaving income support by age group, March 2002 to February 2003

	Number
All ages	884,900
16–24	135,800
25–49	409,500
50 and over	339,600

Proportion of people leaving income support who return to IS, JSA, IB or SPA within six months by age group, March 2002 to February 2003

	Number
All ages	31.1
16–24	43.5
25–49	37.9
50 and over	18.0

n/a = Percentage is not applicable, as at least one of the corresponding caseloads is nil or negligible.

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and will be subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and expressed in thousands. Percentages are given to one decimal place.
2. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
3. JSA figures are based on persons who were receiving Income-based or contribution-based JSA when their claim terminated. National Insurance credits only cases are not included.
4. JSA numbers show the number of people who have left JSA on finding work, working on average 16 hours per week or more, and on taking up the New Deal Employers Option.
5. Incapacity benefit figures are based on persons receiving either long-term or short-term incapacity benefit, and exclude credits only cases.
6. Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance terminations shown are those recorded as "returning to work" and therefore figures may not directly correspond to those finding work.
7. All income support terminations are shown as the reason for leaving benefit is not known.

8. A person is counted only once in each period, regardless of the number of times they claim and subsequently leave each benefit.
9. Age is given at the point the claim terminates.
10. End dates of IS claims are not collected, therefore the claim end dates for IS claimants are estimated. Persons returning within six months will therefore be a six month period from the estimated end date.
11. "—" signifies nil or negligible.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181858]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Library.

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff in his Department in the latest year for which figures are available. [182114]

Maria Eagle: For the latest year available (2003–04) there was no ministerial travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. In the same year the total cost for departmental staff travel, between these two locations, was £230,269.50.

Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial and civil service travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers, and Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Library.

National Insurance Numbers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on issuing national insurance numbers to people who have *(a)* entered the country illegally, *(b)* overstayed their permitted time and *(c)* not been granted indefinite leave to remain. [180776]

Mr. Pond: The allocation of a national insurance number (NINO) is dependent upon certain employment and benefit-related criteria. An individual resident in the UK must register for a NINO if they have never registered before, are aged 16 or over, are employed and/or self employed, or are not employed but wish to be and would benefit from paying class 3 voluntary contributions.

Possession of a NINO does not constitute proof of the right to work, and the onus for establishing right to work rests with employers. The 1996 Asylum and Immigration Act prohibits the use of illegal migrant labour and requires employers to carry out certain specified document checks on prospective employees. The NINO is only acceptable as evidence of entitlement to work if produced in combination with other specified documents. Alternatively, job applicants can demonstrate their entitlement to work by producing specified secure documentation, such as the British passport, EEA passports and other foreign passports endorsed to show the holder can work in the UK.

We have well established processes in place to notify Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate where it becomes apparent that an individual requesting a NINO has immigration restrictions. This process protects the benefit systems from undue loss when a person's immigration status excludes the right to access public funds and provides the Immigration Service with up to date information on the individual.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of inaccurate national insurance numbers in the NINO database; [182073]

(2) if he will make a statement on the progress of data cleansing in the national insurance number database; [182112]

(3) how many false national insurance numbers have been discovered by his Department in each year since 1997. [182072]

Mr. Pond: The Department continually monitors the national insurance number (NINO) system to ensure its integrity and improve its accuracy.

We have made no estimate of the current number of inaccurate NINOs held on the Departmental Central Index (DCI). In 2001, the Department completed an analysis of the DCI database to improve its integrity and, as a result, over 200,000 duplicate NINOs were removed from the system. The process of analysing our databases to identify and remove inaccurate, duplicate and fraudulent NINOs has continued as part of our commitment to reduce fraud and error.

Information about the number of cases of false NINOs discovered by this Department is not available as data is not collated centrally.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers on the Departmental Central Index related to people *(a)* now deceased, *(b)* who live abroad and receive no benefits, *(c)* who live abroad and receive benefits and *(d)* aged under 16 years in each year since 1992. [182140]

Mr. Pond: Information about how many national insurance numbers on the Departmental Central Index (DCI) are related to people who live abroad, whether or not they receive benefits, is not collated centrally. However, analysis carried out in 2003 indicates that there are about 5.5 million accounts relating to individuals who live abroad but are not in receipt of benefit, and about 1 million accounts for individuals who live abroad and are in receipt of benefit.

The available information about the number of records relating to deceased people, and persons under 16 years of age is in the tables.

Records relating to deceased people on the Departmental Central Index

Date	*Number or records people relating to deceased (million)*
July 2002	14
September 2003	14.5
March 2004	15

Notes:
1. Recent analysis indicates that there are a further 1.5 million accounts relating to deceased persons but where the date of death is not recorded on DCI.
2. Information relating to deceased records is only available from July 2002.

Source:
Departmental Central Index.

Number of child reference numbers allocated 1992–2003

	Number allocated
1992	8,914,206
1993	2,935,916
1994	824,127
1995	784,349
1996	757,768
1997	746,190
1998	716,786
1999	702,221
2000	681,562
2001	657,224
2002	628,887
2003	661,860

Notes:
1. Accounts on DCI for those under 16 are referred to as child reference numbers.
2. Child reference numbers were introduced in 1992.

Source:
Departmental Central Index.

New Deal

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals have benefited from the *(a)* New Deal for Young People, *(b)* New Deal 25 plus, *(c)* New Deal 50 plus, *(d)* New Deal for Disabled People, *(e)* New Deal for Lone Parents, *(f)* New Deal for Partners, *(g)* New Deal: self-employment and *(h)* New Deal for Musicians in (i) Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, (ii) the Scottish Borders region and (iii) Scotland in each year since the introduction of each; and if he will make a statement. [180955]

Jane Kennedy: The available information is in the tables.

Numbers helped into work through the New Deal—Scotland

	Starts	*Jobs*
New Deal for Young People[1]		
1998	13,940	5,720
1999	14,310	11,960
2000	12,960	11,160
2001	13,380	9,170
2002	15,870	9,050
2003	19,390	9,030
2004	5,190	2,150
Total	95,030	58,250
New Deal 25 plus[2]		
1998	3,280	540
1999	7,090	2,140
2000	6,840	2,550
2001	11,050	3,640
2002	12,580	5,230
2003	12,290	5,070
2004	2,970	1,120
Total	56,110	20,290
New Deal for Lone Parents[3]		
1998	660	240
1999	6,360	3,740
2000	5,930	4,500
2001	7,760	5,100
2002	10,960	6,520
2003	14,890	6,900
2004	4,860	1,800
Total	51,410	28,810
New Deal 50 plus[4]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	3,170
2001	—	4,180
2002	—	4,040
2003	—	780
2004	—	—
Total	—	12,180
New Deal for Disabled People[5]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	310	40
2002	2,720	1,030
2003	3,610	2,410
2004	920	640
Total	7,560	4,110
New Deal for Partners[6]		
1998	—	—
1999	220	30
2000	380	60
2001	350	110
2002	150	60
2003	140	30
2004	40	10
Total	1,280	310
New Deal for Musicians[7]		
1998	—	—
1999	160	70
2000	330	120
2001	400	110
2002	360	50
2003	340	40
2004	50	10
Total	1,640	390

Numbers helped into work through the New Deal—Scotland

	Starts	Jobs
Self-employment[8]		
1998	170	—
1999	160	—
2000	380	—
2001	610	—
2002	800	—
2003	430	—
2004	20	—
Total	2,560	—

Numbers helped into work through the New Deal—Scottish Borders local authority

	Starts	Jobs
New Deal for Young People[1]		
1998	190	90
1999	270	210
2000	190	180
2001	190	140
2002	250	150
2003	220	140
2004	60	30
Total	1,360	930
New Deal 25 plus[2]		
1998	30	10
1999	60	30
2000	60	40
2001	180	60
2002	140	60
2003	110	40
2004	30	10
Total	620	240
New Deal for Lone Parents[3]		
1998	10	10
1999	110	70
2000	100	80
2001	170	100
2002	190	120
2003	260	130
2004	50	30
Total	880	530
New Deal 50 plus[4]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	90
2001	—	90
2002	—	80
2003	—	10
2004	—	—
Total	—	270
New Deal for Disabled People[5]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
Total	—	—
New Deal for Partners[9]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
Total	—	—

Numbers helped into work through the New Deal—Scottish Borders local authority

	Starts	Jobs
New Deal for Musicians[9]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
Total	—	—
Self-employment[8]		
1998	10	—
1999	0	—
2000	10	—
2001	10	—
2002	10	—
2003	0	—
2004	0	—
Total	30	—

Numbers helped into work through the New Deal—Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale parliamentary constituency

	Starts	Jobs
New Deal for Young People[1]		
1998	110	50
1999	140	120
2000	110	100
2001	90	80
2002	140	80
2003	100	60
2004	40	20
Total	730	500
New Deal 25 plus[2]		
1998	20	0
1999	30	20
2000	30	10
2001	90	30
2002	60	40
2003	60	20
2004	20	10
Total	300	120
New Deal for Lone Parents[3]		
1998	0	0
1999	90	50
2000	60	60
2001	90	60
2002	120	70
2003	190	100
2004	40	20
Total	600	380
New Deal 50 plus[4]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	30
2001	—	40
2002	—	40
2003	—	10
2004	—	—
Total	—	120
New Deal for Disabled People[5]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
Total	—	—

Numbers helped into work through the New Deal—Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale parliamentary constituency

	Starts	*Jobs*
New Deal for Partners[9]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
Total	—	—
New Deal for Musicians[9]		
1998	—	—
1999	—	—
2000	—	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
Total	—	—
Self-employment[8]		
1998	10	—
1999	0	—
2000	10	—
2001	0	—
2002	0	—
2003	0	—
2004	0	—
Total	20	—

[1] New Deal for Young People data is from January 1998.

[2] New Deal 25 plus data is from July 1998.

[3] New Deal for Lone Parents data is from October 1998.

[4] New Deal 50 plus data is from April 2000 and relates to people who have started work through New Deal 50 plus and received the Employment Credit.

[5] New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) data is from July 2001 and starts relate to registrations with an NDDP job broker.

[6] New Deal for Partners data is from May 1999.

[7] New Deal for Musicians data is from August 1999.

[8] There is no separate New Deal for Self-employment. Self-employment figures are for New Deal for Young People, New Deal 25 plus and New Deal 50 plus and are for people who have received advice and guidance on self-employment, or started self-employment test trading. Information on access to self-employment help for other programmes is not available.

[9] Data is not available at local authority or parliamentary constituency level for New Deal for Disabled People, New Deal for Partners and New Deal for Musicians.

Notes:

1. All data is to March 2004 apart from New Deal for Musicians which is to February 2004 and New Deal 50 plus which is to March 2003.

2. All data relates to individuals apart from New Deal for Partners data which relates to the number of starts to the programme.

3. Totals may not sum as figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Information and Analysis Directorate

Dr. Jack Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in *(a)* Copeland and *(b)* Cumbria have benefited from the New Deal for Lone Parents since its introduction; what the rate of take-up is; and if he will make a statement. [182806]

Jane Kennedy: Through the New Deal we have introduced a wide range of initiatives to help lone parents improve their employment prospects by giving them the skills, support and confidence they need to move into work.

The New Deal runs alongside other measures helping lone parents into work and making work pay. These include our National Childcare Strategy, the lone parent's benefit run-on, the child tax credit and the working tax credit (including the childcare tax credit).

610 women have started New Deal for Lone Parents in the parliamentary constituency of Copeland since the beginning of the programme in October 1998, of whom, 320 have gained a job. Since the introduction of Work-Focused Interviews in April 2001, 16 per cent. of women attending a Work Focused Interview in Copeland went on to join the New Deal for Lone Parents.

Since the beginning of the programme in October 1998, 2,750 women have started New Deal for Lone Parents in the Jobcentre Plus district of Cumbria, of these 1,530 have gained a job. Since the introduction of Work-Focused Interviews in April 2001, 17 per cent. of women attending a Work Focused Interview in Cumbria have gone on to join the New Deal for Lone Parents.

Pension Credit

Dr. Jack Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the rate of take-up of pension credit is in *(a)* Copeland, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* the UK; and if he will make a statement; [182807]

(2) how many pensioners in *(a)* Copeland and *(b)* Cumbria he estimates have gained as a result of pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [182808]

Malcolm Wicks: Information on numbers of households eligible for pension credit is not available at county or constituency level. However, we estimate that approximately 3.75 million households in Great Britain and approximately 500,000 households in the north west region (rounded to the nearest 50,000) are likely to be eligible for pension credit in 2004–05. Information on the numbers of pension credit recipients and people gaining as a result of pension credit is given in the following table. Those gaining are defined as recipients of the savings element of pension credit, plus those recipients of the guarantee element only who were not previously claiming minimum income guarantee and who were aged 60 prior to 6 October 2003.

We have now published a review of the pension credit campaign to the end of May 2004. This shows that pension credit is playing a vital role in helping to give more money to the people who need it most. Over three million pensioners are now benefiting, with over 2.2 million individuals receiving more money than they did before. The review has been placed in the Library.

Pension credit recipients and gainers in Copeland, Cumbria and Great Britain, 31 May 2004[1]

	Households	*Individuals*	*Households gaining*[2]	*Individuals gaining*[2]
Great Britain	2,496,970	3,028,390	1,833,690	2,217,125
Copeland parliamentary constituency	2,950	3,585	2,260	2,735
Cumbria local authority	20,270	24,265	16,245	19,375

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
[2] 'Gainers' are defined as *(a)* recipients of the savings element of pension credit plus *(b)* those recipients of the guarantee element only who were not previously claiming MIG and who were aged 60 prior to 6 October 2003.

Sanctions Database

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of establishing the Sanctions Database; [182079]

(2) if he will make a statement on the progress of the Sanctions Database; when he expects it to be fully operational; and when he expects to be able to publish findings arising from it. [182127]

Mr. Pond: The Sanctions Database is currently in development and a prototype database is now being tested and analysed. After the initial release the database will be continuously developed to meet future analytical needs.

Total development costs are not available but it is estimated that they will be less than £100,000.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Asylum Seekers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding was made available by his Department for the care of asylum seekers in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available. [180699]

Mr. Pearson: The National Asylum Support Service provides support, accommodation and financial help for asylum seekers, including those residing in Northern Ireland, whilst their claim is being considered by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the Home Office. My hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration has advised me that figures are not held on a regional basis.

Details of funding for the care of immigration detainees are not recorded separately by the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Chief Constable

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what restrictions are placed *(a)* in law and *(b)* operationally on the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland making public political statements. [182968]

Mr. Pearson: The general functions of the Chief Constable are in accordance with the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 as amended by the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003. There are no restrictions placed either in law or operationally on him making public statements.

Civil Service (Industrial Action)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days each department, agency and non-departmental public body in Northern Ireland has been affected by industrial action since the start of the current dispute involving the Civil Service trade unions; how many man-hours were lost as a result of that industrial action; and what the cost was of that lost time. [180826]

Mr. Pearson: Since the start of the current dispute involving civil service trade unions, departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies in Northern Ireland, up to 24 June 2004, have been subject to a total of 522 days of industrial action with 315,242 staff-hours lost. A breakdown of the figures for each department, agency and non-departmental public body is as follows. Information on the cost of the lost time is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Department	*Core/Agency/NDPB*	*Industrial action days*	*Staff hours lost*
Agriculture and Rural Development	Department Core	47	39,834
	NI Fishery Harbour Authority	None	None
	Livestock Marketing Commission	None	None
	Agricultural Research Institute for NI	1	33
	Rivers Agency	6	1,369
	Forest Service	6	733
Culture, Arts and Leisure	Department Core	5	962.7
	Ordnance Survey NI	5	1,890.87
	Public Records Office NI	5	717.8
Education	Department Core	58	19,097.38
Enterprise and Learning	Department Core	67	39,787
	Labour Relations Agency	7	1,876
	Construction Industry Training Board	None	None
	Enterprise Ulster	None	None
	Ulster Supported Employment Ltd.	None	None

Department	Core/Agency/NDPB	Industrial action days	Staff hours lost
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	Department Core	5	2,970
	Health and Safety Executive NI	2	104
	Invest NI	2	682
	General Consumer Council	2	111
	Invest NI (Non-NICS)	3	458.7
	NI Tourist Board	3	565.5
Finance and Personnel	Department Core	5	8,296.6
	Valuation and Lands Agency	5	1,978.4
	BDS	9	1,505.2
	Rate Collection Agency	19	7,676.2
	Land Registers of NI	5	1,650.4
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	Department Core	40	7,610.08
	Health Estates Agency	2	192.24
	Mental Health Commission	None	None
Environment	Department Core	5	1,007
	Driver and Vehicle Licensing NI	36	8,872
	Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency	53	12,399
	Environment and Heritage Service	9	2,095
	Planning Service	5	6,133
	NDPBs	None	None
Regional Development	Department Core	5	16,505
Social Development	Department Core	6	2,117
	Social Security Agency	63	105,175
	Child Support Agency	10	18.993
Northern Ireland Office	Department Core	5	158.96
	Compensation Agency	4	55.41
	Forensic Science Agency	2	42.11
	Youth Justice Agency	1	1
	NI Prison Service	5	764
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	Department Core	4	823.25
	NDPBs	None	None
Total		522	315,241.8

Foreign Criminals

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent reports he has received of foreign criminal groups and organisations operating in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to the Triads. [178765]

Mr. Pearson: As Chair of the Organised Crime Task Force, I receive regular briefings from the partner agencies on the progress being made in tackling organised criminal groups that operate in Northern Ireland. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is currently pursuing a number of investigations into alleged criminal groupings, including those from ethnic minorities.

Government Spending

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what Government spending has been in Northern Ireland, broken down by *(a)* Department and *(b)* district council over the past 10 years. [180991]

Mr. Pearson: The introduction of Devolution in 1999 involved the restructuring of Northern Ireland Departments, and an increase in number from six to 11. In addition, from 2000–01 public spending has been recorded on a resource basis, as opposed to the previous cash basis. It is not possible, therefore, to provide details of spend by Northern Ireland Departments over the last 10 years on a consistent basis. Allocations to departments are set within Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) and the following table (table A) shows DEL spending for NI Departments for the period 2000–01 to 2002–03, the latest year for which details of final spend are available.

In respect of district councils, expenditure is not held on record for the years 1994–95 to 1996–97. Table B shows the net expenditure for each of the 26 Northern Ireland district councils for the period 1997–98 to 2002–03.

Table A: Northern Ireland departmental spending in DEL for the period 2000–01 to 2002–03

£ million

Department	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
Agriculture and Rural Development	192.5	199.4	202.0
Culture, Arts and Leisure	70.6	75.3	87.3
Education	1,255.2	1,338.7	1,461.3
Employment and Learning	532.8	537.6	571.0
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	251.0	281.3	213.0
Finance and Personnel	103.9	131.7	130.5
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2,151.0	2,293.9	2,568.4
Environment	87.1	92.8	105.5
Regional Development	444.2	499.3	564.7
Social Development	395.0	404.9	419.3
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	27.7	33.2	37.0
Total	5,510.9	5,888.2	6,360.3

Table B: Net expenditure of NI district councils for the period 1997–98 to 2002–03

£ million

District council	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03
Antrim	6.0	6.5	6.8	7.4	8.3	8.8
Ards	8.3	8.7	9.4	10.8	10.5	11.9
Armagh	6.3	6.9	8.0	8.3	9.2	10.1
Ballymena	6.1	6.8	6.9	8.2	9.6	10.8
Ballymoney	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.6	4.0	4.2
Banbridge	4.3	5.0	5.3	5.8	6.5	7.2
Belfast	59.4	60.1	66.9	68.5	67.9	75.5
Carrickfergus	4.7	5.1	5.3	6.4	6.8	6.8
Castlereagh	6.4	6.5	7.9	8.6	8.6	10.2
Coleraine	5.9	7.1	8.3	8.9	9.1	9.5
Cookstown	3.2	3.6	3.7	4.2	4.6	4.9
Craigavon	10.5	11.6	12.1	12.0	13.4	14.7
Derry	15.7	16.8	17.0	18.1	19.4	19.6
Down	8.3	8.0	9.2	10.0	10.5	11.2
Dungannon	4.5	4.8	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.7
Fermanagh	5.7	5.9	6.9	6.9	7.3	8.2
Larne	4.1	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.3
Limavady	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.6	5.3	4.8
Lisburn	11.6	12.4	13.6	13.3	15.6	17.0
Magherafelt	4.1	4.4	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.6
Moyle	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.5	3.4	3.2
Newry and Mourne	10.4	11.6	13.1	13.5	18.1	16.9
Newtownabbey	10.9	11.4	13.2	14.2	15.0	15.5
North Down	10.6	10.5	12.9	13.4	12.6	13.6
Omagh	6.1	6.1	6.8	7.2	7.5	7.9
Strabane	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.9	6.2
Total	226.7	238.0	263.4	277.5	295.7	316.3

Murder Investigation (Andrew Robb and David McIlwaine)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the investigation into the murders of Andrew Robb and David McIlwaine near Tandragee, County Armagh, on 19 February 2000. [181937]

Mr. Pearson: Police are actively pursuing lines of enquiry into this live murder investigation and will continue their efforts to bring those responsible to justice.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

"Planning for Housing"

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place the responses to the consultation paper "Planning for Housing" in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [183542]

Keith Hill: Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: Housing (PPG3) was published in March 2000. The responses to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions to the consultation draft of PPG3 were made available in the Library of the House on 24 June 1999.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is finalising the proposed updates to PPG3 titled "Influencing the size, type and affordability of housing" and "Supporting the delivery of new housing" in the light of the responses to the consultation exercise undertaken last year. The aim is to publish the updates to PPG3 in the autumn, at which time the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will make copies of the responses available in the Library of the House. In accordance with current practice, a list of those responses will also be made available in the Library of the House.

Car Parking

Mr. Chope: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many off-street car parking spaces have been provided in *(a)* new housing developments, *(b)* new office developments and *(c)* other commercial developments in England in each of the last five years. [183697]

Keith Hill: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Commercial/Industrial Land

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister by what process the protections afforded to land that has been identified as possessing a possible commercial or industrial use can be overturned; and what his role is in the process. [183541]

Keith Hill: The protection afforded to land that has been identified as possessing a possible commercial or industrial use is primarily given through its allocation in a development plan. Planning applications should be decided in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is therefore possible that planning permission can be given for another use if material considerations are deemed to outweigh the status of the development plan in a specific case.

This is primarily a matter for local planning authorities, as they have a duty to produce a development plan, and decide planning applications accordingly. The First Secretary of State, my right hon.

Friend the Deputy Prime Minister may intervene in the development plan process, and to call-in individual planning applications for his own decision if the circumstances of the case warrant this.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what protections are afforded to land that has been earmarked as possessing potential *(a)* industrial, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* other use; [183545]

(2) what process land that has a potential *(a)* industrial and *(b)* commercial use is identified; [183546]

(3) how much land is protected by statute due to it having been identified as having a possible industrial or commercial use; and how much of this land is being developed for a commercial or industrial use. [183585]

Keith Hill: Land that may possess a possible industrial or commercial use is primarily identified through its allocation in a development plan. Local planning authorities have a duty to produce a development plan for their area, allocating sites for a range of land uses. Planning applications should be decided in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The allocation of sites for such uses will often match the location of existing development, or sites that have previously been in this use, but are currently vacant. New sites may also be identified and allocated where it is apparent that there is market demand, ideally in consultation with the private sector.

There are no statistics held centrally for how much land has been allocated, and developed accordingly, for specific land uses. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Development Fund Bids

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the identity of *(a)* villages, *(b)* towns and *(c)* cities which have had a bid for development funds (i) turned down and (ii) granted by the Housing Corporation is confidential. [183480]

Keith Hill: The Housing Corporation publishes, on its website, a list of all allocations of Social Housing Grant funding through the Approved Development Programme. Details of unsuccessful bids are regarded as commercially confidential and are not published.

Government Estate (Renewable Energy)

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of electricity used by buildings in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has come from renewable sources for each year since 1997. [182898]

Phil Hope: Since the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002, the total proportion of electricity used by buildings in the *(a)* the office and *(b)* its agencies that has come from renewable sources for each year is as follows.

Percentage

	2002–03	*2003–04*
(a) ODPM (including Government offices)	40	42
(b) Agencies	11	15

Although the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has overall responsibility for the buildings occupied by Government offices, they carry out functions on behalf of 10 Departments.

Government Estate (Sustainable Development)

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what have been identified as the most significant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of his Department's estate pursuant to the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [182902]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has identified the following as the most significant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of the ODPM estate;

the emissions associated with the generation of the energy;

the types and disposal methods of the various wastes;

the emissions attributed to business related transport;

the amount and types of refrigerants;

the amount of water and its associated waste;

and the goods that procured.

In the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's primarily office based estate, the significance of an impact is determined by the likelihood of its occurrence and the severity of its effect upon the environment. Impacts can have positive effects upon the environment, as well as detrimental ones.

Green Belt

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements are in place for the replacement of buildings within the green belt that are removed due to safety reasons. [183465]

Keith Hill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 19 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 349W.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) by what process it is determined that an area of land *(a)* should be taken within the green belt and *(b)* no longer constitutes part of the green belt; [183466]

(2) what power of intervention he possesses to overturn the designation of an area of land as *(a)* constituting and *(b)* not constituting part of the green belt. [183468]

Keith Hill: The procedure for establishing green belts is set out in Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 2. The need for new green belts should be considered through the Regional Spatial Strategy process. Once that need has been established, precise boundaries should be set in Development Plan Documents. If a local planning authority proposes to establish a new green belt, it should demonstrate why normal planning and development control policies would not be adequate, and whether any major changes in circumstances have

made the adoption of this exceptional measure necessary. It should also show what the consequences of the proposal would be for sustainable development.

Where Development Plan Documents are being revised and updated, existing green belt boundaries should not be changed unless alterations to the structure plan have been approved, or other exceptional circumstances exist, which necessitate such revision. Such changes would need to be subject to the formal procedures for taking forward a Development Plan Document, including the need for consultation and statutory right for anyone to make a formal objection to the proposals.

My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister's statutory role in the development plan process, (which is set out in planning legislation), enables him to object to policies in plans, to direct modifications to plans, and to call-in applications that are not in accordance with national planning policy.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what statutory protection is provided to land that is located within the green belt. [183467]

Keith Hill: The only legislation that deals specifically with the protection of green belts is the Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act 1938. This made provision for the preservation from industrial or building development of areas of land owned, or formerly owned, by local authorities in and around the former administrative County of London. There has been no subsequent legislation which specifically protects land within the green belt although, within the planning system, there are measures in place which are intended to protect all green belt land. Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG)2 sets out the policies to achieve this. It contains a general presumption against inappropriate development in the green belt, which is reflected in Structure Plans and Local Plans, and carried through in decisions on planning applications.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what statutory obligations are placed upon local authorities to ensure that their provision of land capable of development is not at the expense of the green belt; [183543]

(2) what guidance is given to local authorities to ensure that their provision of land capable of development is not at the expense of the green belt. [183544]

Keith Hill: The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 obliges planning authorities to have regard to any strategic guidance issued by the Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister; current national and regional policies (such as PPG2); the resources likely to be available; and such other matters as the Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister may direct the authority to take into account.

PPG2, with its general presumption against inappropriate development, sets out the Government's policies for protecting green belts. Local planning authorities are obliged to have regard to the policies contained in relevant PPGs when drawing up their development plans, and in future, in their Development Plan Documents.

Homelessness

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which local authorities had fewer statutorily homeless households placed in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2004 than they did on 1 May 1997. [182903]

Phil Hope: Local authorities report information on their activities under homelessness legislation quarterly, and this includes the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation as on the last day of the quarter. The following table shows the 59 local authorities that reported fewer households as at 31 March 2004 compared to that reported as at 31 March 1997.

Homeless households in temporary accommodation[1] arranged by the local authority, as at 31 March

	1997	*2004*	*Change from 1997 to 2004*
Bassetlaw	202	3	-199
Wirral	104	4	-100
Leicester	168	76	-92
Runnymede	127	44	-83
Waverley	189	107	-82
Bolton	150	74	-76
Reading	373	316	-57
East Devon	64	13	-51
Bradford	98	47	-51
Test Valley	148	100	-48
Preston	111	63	-48
South Kesteven	58	12	-46
East Dorset	82	41	-41
Sunderland	48	12	-36
Epsom and Ewell	67	33	-34
Bromsgrove	26	0	-26
Gateshead	42	17	-25
Knowsley	50	28	-22
Tunbridge Wells	74	53	-21
North Dorset	22	1	-21
Wychavon	27	7	-20
Walsall	82	62	-20
Forest of Dean	50	31	-19
Gloucester	204	186	-18
Redcar and Cleveland	91	73	-18
Darlington	17	2	-15
Wyre	31	16	-15
South Staffordshire	32	18	-14
Greenwich	391	378	-13
Warwick	30	17	-13
New Forest	215	203	-12
East Staffordshire	12	0	-12
Erewash	34	23	-11
Kibble Valley	21	11	-10
Wolverhampton	31	22	-9
Bury	23	14	-9
Rugby	12	4	-8
City of London	33	25	-8
Castle Morpeth	8	0	-8
Sandwell	13	6	-7
South Shropshire	30	23	-7
Chelmsford	49	42	-7
Ashfield	17	10	-7
Pendle	20	14	-6
Sefton	16	10	-6
Eastbourne	252	246	-6
Amber Valley	32	27	-5
Oswestry	8	3	-5
Rossendale	4	0	-4
West Lindsey	14	11	-3
Blyth Valley	6	3	-3
Easington	4	2	-2
Halton	34	33	-1

Homeless households in temporary accommodation[1] arranged by the local authority, as at 31 March

	1997	*2004*	*Change from 1997 to 2004*
Mid Sussex	55	54	-1
Winchester	71	70	-1
Blackburn with Darwen	4	3	-1
West Lancashire	6	5	-1
North Warwickshire	1	0	-1
Eden	23	22	-1

[1] Households in temporary accommodation arranged by the local authority pending inquiries, or after being accepted, under homelessness legislation.

Notes:

1. Of 354 local authorities in England, 32 authorities failed to report in either or both years.
2. Excludes "homeless at home" households.

Source:

ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly).

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what factors other than the extension of the categories of priority need have been assessed as contributing to *(a)* the change in the numbers of statutorily homeless households in temporary accommodation since 1 May 1997 and *(b)* the average length of time they have to wait before being permanently rehoused; [182906]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average length of time a statutorily homeless household to whom a local authority accepted a duty in 2004 will have to wait before being permanently rehoused. [182907]

Phil Hope: There is a complex interplay between a number of factors that cause homelessness (including the supply of housing and personal problems such as relationship breakdown, debt or drug misuse). This was set out in the March 2002 report "More than a roof" which emphasises the importance of concentrating as much on people and the problems they face as on places in which they live.

The Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate, within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, is taking forward the approaches set out in "More than a roof". The directorate works closely with local authorities, voluntary sector agencies (including housing associations), and other Government Departments to improve our understanding of the relationship between all the factors that influence homelessness and to test and promote new ways to tackle homelessness more effectively.

Information reported quarterly by local authorities on their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households that, during the quarter, left temporary accommodation provided by the authority, or who were no longer registered as "homeless at home", by the length of stay (in broad time bands).

Projections of the expected average length of stay for households currently being accepted as owed a main homelessness duty are not made. In the March quarter of 1997 the average length of stay for homeless households prior to leaving temporary accommodation in England was around 100 days; the equivalent figure for 2004 was around 270 days.

Ms Oona King: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of households accepted as being homeless in London between March 2003 and March 2004 were of black or minority ethnic origin. [181663]

Phil Hope: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly. Estimates of households accepted by London boroughs between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2004 as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, by black or ethnic minority group, is tabled as follows.

	Number	*Percentage*
White	11,530	37
Black or minority ethnic	18,420	58
Ethnic origin	1,570	5
All households	31,530	100

Notes:

Estimates include imputation for any non-responding authorities. Totals may not equal sum of components because of rounding

Source:

ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly)

Homes above Shops

Martin Linton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will estimate how many under-used or vacant spaces above shops have been converted or renovated as a rented dwelling since May 2001. [183273]

Keith Hill: The information required to provide such an estimate is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on his decision not to introduce the duty of care on owners of houses in multiple occupation proposed in Licensing of HMOs—England: A consultation paper. [182908]

Keith Hill: The Government decided not to introduce an additional provision relating to the duty of care on owners of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) because such a duty already exists in law and will be complemented by the provisions in the Housing Bill currently before Parliament.

Under section 4 of the Defective Premises Act 1972 a landlord is under an obligation to ensure that the tenants of premises (for which he has a duty to repair) are reasonably safe from personal injury arising from relevant defects. This duty applies to all landlords who let under tenancies and, therefore, extends to landlords of HMOs.Paragraph 13 of the Housing (Management of Houses In Multiple Occupation) Regulations 1990 places a duty on managers of HMOs to ensure that adequate precautions are taken to prevent injury to residents arising from the design and structural conditions of the HMO. Whilst it is intended to revoke these regulations on the coming into force of the Housing Bill, the Government intends to re- enact this regulation in new regulations provided for in the Bill. Those new regulations will ensure that acceptable management standards are in place in all HMOs and a failure to comply with any of those regulations will be a criminal offence, prosecutable by a local authority.

A local authority can use its powers under Part 1 of the Bill to enforce improvements made necessary by management failures.

Part 1 of the Housing Bill will place a duty on a local authority to take enforcement action to deal with defects in HMOs and other residential dwellings where it determines there is a serious threat to the health or safety of the occupiers.

Housing (Victims of Domestic Violence)

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the status is of women who are living in a women's refuge in order to escape violence or abuse in respect of *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* council housing waiting lists; and if he will make a statement. [182724]

Phil Hope: A woman living in a women's refuge in order to escape violence or abuse would be statutorily homeless if it was not reasonable for her to continue to live in the refuge and she had no other suitable accommodation available for her occupation which she had a legal right to occupy.

The "Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities", to which local housing authorities in England must have regard by law, states that women's refuges are intended to provide very short term accommodation and should not be regarded as reasonable to continue to occupy in the medium and longer term. Housing authorities should recognise that placing an applicant in a refuge will generally be a temporary expedient only, and a prolonged stay could block a bed space that was urgently needed by someone else at risk. Refuges should be used to provide accommodation for the minimum period necessary before alternative suitable accommodation is secured elsewhere.

She would be entitled to make an application for an allocation of accommodation to any housing authority and if she was considered to be homeless by that authority should be given reasonable preference for an allocation under the authority's allocation scheme.

Housing Stocks

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many local authorities in England have an incidence of more than 5 per cent. of their dwelling stock empty; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce this incidence. [183534]

Keith Hill: The information requested is tabled as follows:

Local authority	*Percentage of stock vacant*
South Hams	13
Burnley	7
Manchester	7
Liverpool	7
Calderdale	7
Kensington and Chelsea	7
Salford	7
Kingston upon Hull	7
Pendle	7
Waveney	7
Hastings	6
Bournemouth	6
Hyndburn	6
Oldham	6
Blackburn with Darwen	6
Torridge	6
Newcastle upon Tyne	6
Scarborough	6
Preston	6
Tameside	6
Tower Hamlets	5
Redcar and Cleveland	5
Thanet	5
Easington	5
Great Yarmouth	5
Maldon	5
Wear Valley	5
Allerdale	5
Carlisle	5
Knowsley	5

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is taking action to reduce the incidence of empty homes. We have established a £500 million Market Renewal Fund for investment in nine pathfinder areas to tackle low demand and abandonment across the North and Midlands. Local authorities have been given the discretion to reduce, or remove completely, council tax discounts on long-term empty homes. We are proposing to introduce new powers in the Housing Bill for local authorities to manage privately owned empty homes where the vacancy cannot be justified. We are consulting on a proposal to re-introduce a Best Value Performance Indicator to measure local authority performance in re-letting their empty council dwellings. This is in addition to an existing performance indicator that measures the performance of local authorities at returning private sector vacant dwellings to use.

Land Use

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what arrangements are in place for the monitoring of land use. [183539]

Keith Hill: The main source of information is Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS), based on information from Ordnance Survey on the change of use of individual land parcels. The most recent information was published in May as "Land Use Change in England: Residential Development to 2003".

There is also the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land, which is now updated annually and shows the stock of brownfield land, both vacant and derelict land and land currently in use with potential for development. Results for 2002 were published in September 2003 as "Previously-Developed Land that May be Available for Development (Brownfield Sites) in 2002".

A further source which has been produced on an experimental basis covering the London and South East Government Office Regions and five local authorities in Essex is the Generalised Land Use Database. This shows the distribution of all land across nine categories as at the end of 2001. It is planned to extend coverage to the whole of England by the end of

the year. Further information is on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's website as "Generalised Land Use Classification Statistics".

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the means-tested benefits available through his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182570]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created in May 2002. No means tested benefits are, or have been, payable through the Office or its agencies.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181862]

Phil Hope: The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government has also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181352]

Phil Hope: The information is as follows.

(a) The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has yet to complete a review of its headquarters pay system which was inherited from its predecessor department in May 2002 when the Office was established.

(b) Non-departmental public bodies have delegated authority for pay and grading and are individually responsible for reviewing their pay systems and associated issues.

(c) A summary document of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's equal pay action plan titled "ODPM (HQ) Equal Pay Review" is available in the Library of the House.

Postal Voting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the total change in costs will be of conducting all-postal pilots at the elections in June, broken down by main budget heading. [176248]

Mr. Raynsford: Firm data about these costs, including a breakdown by main heading, is not available. One of the aims of this year's pilot elections is to understand in greater depth the precise costs of running all-postal elections. The claims submitted to the Elections Claims Unit by returning officers will be invaluable in providing this data. Our provisional estimate of the additional cost of conducting the all postal pilots is of the order of £10 million.

Regional Affairs

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to allow the people of Herefordshire to decide the region that they wish to belong to. [183020]

Mr. Raynsford: There are no plans to review regional boundaries.

Speculative Land Plots

Charles Hendry: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many cases involving speculative land plots have been disposed of by courts in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [183947]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has no information on this.

Urban Sprawl

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Green Belt in preventing urban sprawl since 1997. [183462]

Keith Hill: No formal assessment has been made, but the latest published figures from Land Use Change Statistics show that between 1997 and 2000 an average of only 0.06 per cent. of the total Green Belt area changed from undeveloped to developed use each year. This suggests that the application of Green Belt policy continues to be effective in preventing urban sprawl.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Community Legal Services Partnership (Newcastle)

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what debt, money and welfare benefits advice is provided by the Community Legal Services Partnership in the City of Newcastle; and what change there has been in these resources in the last three years. [183653]

Mr. Lammy: Individual providers within each Community Legal Service Partnership (CLSP) are responsible for delivering local advice services. In the area covered by the Newcastle CLSP, the Legal Services Commission has contracted with four solicitor firms and three Not for Profit organisations to provide legal and advice services in debt and welfare benefits.

The four solicitor firms have authority to start 40 debt and 386 welfare benefit cases. The three Not for Profit organisations are authorised to undertake 1,100 casework hours in respect of debt, and 2,200 hours in respect of welfare benefits.

While the number of matter starts and casework hours have not changed from 2003–04, this follows on from a substantial increase from 2002–03, when

solicitors in Newcastle were only allocated 232 case starts in welfare benefits and debt, and when there was no contracted provision through any Not for Profit organisation in either of these two categories.

Parental Responsibility

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether he will implement the 1996 Hague Convention on Jurisdiction Applicable Law Recognition Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children in the same time scale as the EU Parental Responsibility Regulation comes into effect; and if he will make a statement. [183669]

Mr. Leslie: The new EU Parental Responsibility Regulation will come into force on 1 March 2005. Implementation of the Hague Convention requires ratification on an EU-wide basis. This will require enabling legislation in a number of member states. The Government are committed to bringing forward enabling legislation for the UK as soon as parliamentary time allows.

HEALTH

Alcohol (National Harm Reduction Strategy)

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in carrying out the national audit of alcohol treatment services recommended in the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England; and if he will make a statement. [182788]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The treatment audit is on course for completion by quarter 1 of 2005 as planned.

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in setting up the Alcohol Communication Group recommended in the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England; and if he will make a statement. [182789]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The first meeting of the cross-Government communications group has been arranged for July 2004.

Allergy Services

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of allergy doctors per head of population is in England. [183330]

Mr. Hutton: The standard ratio used by the Department is per 100,000 population.

The information requested is shown in the table.

Hospital, Public Health Medicine and Community Health Services (HCHS) staff with a specialty in allergy—England, as at 30 September 2003

Allergy	*Number (headcount)*
Number	24
Doctors per 100,000 of the population[1]	0.48

[1] Population data is as at 2002 as present data is not yet available.

Source:

Department of Health medical and dental workforce census.

The number of general practitioners with special interests in allergies is not collected centrally.

Ambulance Response Times (London)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the latest average response time is of ambulances to 999 calls in London boroughs; [182833]

(2) what the latest average response time is of ambulances to 999 calls in the London borough of Havering. [182835]

Mr. Hutton: Statistics on average response times of ambulances to 999 calls are not collected by borough or primary care trust.

However, London Ambulance Service response times to all categories of call for the reporting year 2003–04, the latest data available, can be found on the Department's website at: www.publications.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0411.htm

Birth Defects

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into rates of birth defects in communities located near to waste incinerators. [163608]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has not commissioned research into rates of birth defects in communities located near to waste incinerators. Several such studies have been published, with no consistent evidence of any association.

Emissions from modern waste incinerators in the United Kingdom are subject to stringent controls introduced since the periods captured in these studies. It is probable that few, if any, of the incinerators studied would have complied with current requirements.

Breast Milk Substitutes

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conclusions have been drawn following discussions with the Food Standards Agency with regard to ensuring the best possible alignment of UK regulations with the International Code for Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. [182177]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Rules on the composition, labelling and promotion of infant formulas and follow on formulas are laid down in European Directive 917321/EEC, which is implemented in the United Kingdom through national regulations. Amendments to the Directive are currently under discussion in Brussels with the relationship between the international code and the Directive being one of the issues under consideration.

Chlamydia

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were used when selecting primary care trusts for the extension of the chlamydia screening programme. [182780]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The criteria used to select primary care trusts for phase II of the national roll-out of the chlamydia screening programme are published on the Department website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/Chlamydia/fs/en

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria were used in selecting pilot areas for chlamydia testing; [183765]

(2) for what reasons Barking, Havering and Redbridge was not selected as a pilot area for chlamydia testing; [183766]

(3) if he will extend the pilot scheme for chlamydia testing to include Barking, Havering and Redbridge. [183767]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The criteria used to select primary care trusts for phase two of the national roll-out of the chlamydia screening programme are published on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/Chlamydia/fs/en.

Those primary care trusts (PCTs) which were unsuccessful in their bids to participate in phase two of the chlamydia screening programme, including Barking, Havering and Redbridge, were not selected because the expert selection panel felt that other bids better met the selection criteria.

It is the Department's aim that the chlamydia screening programme will be rolled-out across all PCTs by 2008 and we shall be inviting bids for phase three of the programme later this year.

Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for *(a)* abolition and *(b)* transfer of responsibilities of the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health; and if he will make a statement. [183934]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government's recommendations in relation to the future of all Department of Health arm's length bodies will be published shortly.

Contaminated Blood Products

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths from *(a)* HIV/AIDS, *(b)* hepatitis C and *(c)* co-infection from AIDS and hepatitis C as a result of using NHS-supplied contaminated blood products have so far occurred; and how many victims remain alive. [176222]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Information is not collected on the number of people who acquired infections through contaminated blood products and who have died.

The number of haemophilia patients infected with HIV/AIDS from national health service blood products registered with the Macfarlane Trust and who have died are shown in the table.

	Number of deaths[1]
1988[2]	88
1989–97	661
1998	22
1999	19
2000	24
2001	13
2002	12
2003	11
2004	2
Total	852

[1] The Macfarlane Trust does not collect information on the cause of death.
[2] Prior to 1988.

The Macfarlane Trust currently has 391 registrants, and 40 infected intimates (wives and partners).

Information on the total number of patients who have died from hepatitis C as a result of infection through NHS blood products and the number who remain alive and the figure for the number of patients co-infected with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C who have died are not collected.

Deaths During Operations (Havering)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died during operations in the hospitals in the London borough of Havering in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002 and *(d)* 2003. [182831]

Mr. Hutton: Information on how many people have died during operations is not collected centrally.

Deaths while on a Waiting List

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died while on a waiting list for an operation in *(a)* each of London's NHS hospitals and *(b)* the London borough of Havering in (i) 1995, (ii) 1997, (iii) 1999, (iv) 2001 and (v) 2002. [182830]

Mr. Hutton: Information on how many people died while on a waiting list for an operation is not collected centrally.

Dental Provision (Homeless People)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the homelessness unit at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* homeless charities regarding dental provision for homeless people since passage of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003; [182707]

(2) what benefits the dental aspects of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 will bring to homeless people. [182708]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to rebuilding and restoring national health service dentistry to improve the oral health of the whole nation, including its most vulnerable members. One function of the community dental service is to provide dental care and treatment for people with special needs, including homeless people, from fixed-site and mobile outreach clinics. 47 NHS dental access centres located in areas of poor oral health provide dental services for patients who may not otherwise access dentistry. When we delegate the commissioning of general dental services under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, every primary care trust (PCT) will have to provide primary dental services to the extent it considers necessary to meet all reasonable requirements within its area. We will encourage PCTs to hold local consultations with organisations which support the homeless during implementation of the new arrangements.

Dentistry

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have applied to become NHS dentists since 2000 in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire; how many dentists in (i) England and (ii) Gloucestershire have applied for grants to help them achieve NHS status since 2000; how many of these grants have been paid; and how much is outstanding. [179770]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The numbers of dentists starting in the general (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) in the years 2000–01 to 2003–04 are shown in the table.

Number of dentists starting in GDS or PDS, 2000–01 to 2003–04

Year ending March	*Gloucestershire area*	*England*
2001	15	1,142
2002	25	1,140
2003	11	1,026
2004	14	1,079

Information is not available for the community dental service or the hospital dental service. Information on the number of dentists who have applied for grants to help them achieve national health service status is not held centrally, although it may be available from the individual primary care trusts (PCTs). Last September, we announced £35 million capital to enable PCTs to improve access, choice and quality for patients, and in November, a further £15 million revenue to support access. The Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority will receive some £2 million to improve access. The NHS dentistry support team is now working with West Gloucestershire PCT to improve access in its area.

Drug Misuse Indicator

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many changes have been made to his Department's drug misuse indicator during 2004; what the reasons were for those changes; and if he will make a statement. [183072]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The construction of the drugs misuse indicator has been changed once since being posted on the Healthcare Commission's website. The change simplified the construction of the indicator so that only 2003–04 data was used to measure performance.

The 2002–03 data were excluded following discussions with strategic health authorities, which were concerned about data quality.

European Services in the Internal Market Directive

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he will put in place in relation to the proposed EU Directive, European Services in the Internal Market, to ensure patients are protected from unscrupulous providers who may seek to rely on the country of origin principle to bypass public health initiatives and regulations. [183937]

Mr. Hutton: The Department is working very closely with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as regards the proposed European Union Directive. There has been agreement on the temporary service provision during the on-going negotiations of the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive to ensure that medical professionals are regulated from host state, rather than home state. We continue to work closely with DTI colleagues to ensure that this position and our interests are fully represented and considered.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has received the response of the Royal College of Nursing to the Department of Trade and Industry's consultation on the European Union Directive on Services in the Internal Market; and if he will make a statement. [183938]

Mr. Hutton: I have received a copy of the Royal College of Nursing's response to the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) consultation on the European Commission's proposal for an Internal Market for Services Directive, which the Department is currently considering further. Negotiation on this proposal continues and my Department is working very closely with the DTI, the lead Government department during these negotiations.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations he has received about the dangers of drinking in pregnant women and its links to foetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and if he will make a statement; [182795]

(2) what measures he is taking to monitor the incidence of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders; and if he will make a statement. [182796]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has received a number of representations about the dangers of drinking during pregnancy and these have been considered as part of the alcohol harm reduction strategy for England. The Department has made no specific estimate of the incidence of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders or of foetal alcohol syndrome in England.

The Department does not collect specific information about the incidence of foetal alcohol syndrome. We do have information on admissions for foetal alcohol syndrome in England in recent years and this is shown in the table.

All diagnoses (ICD-10 Q86.0) foetal alcohol syndrome—count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) in national health service hospitals, England 2000–01 to 2002–03

	FCEs
2000–01	95
2001–02	90
2002–03	128

Notes:
1. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.
3. All diagnoses count of episodes. These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002–03) diagnoses fields in a hospital episode statistics (HSE) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Source:
Hospital episode statistics, Department of Health.

Ross Cranston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received about the need for warnings on alcoholic drinks concerning the risks of brain damage to the unborn child from drinking during pregnancy; and if he will make a statement. [182797]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has received a number of representations about health warnings on alcoholic drinks and these have been considered as part

of the development of the alcohol harm reduction strategy for England. It is not possible to identify which of these representations, if any, relate to the risks of brain damage to unborn children from drinking during pregnancy.

General Practitioners (Havering)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the latest average waiting time is for an appointment with a general practitioner in the London Borough of Havering. [182828]

Mr. Hutton: Information is not collected centrally on the average waiting time to see a general practitioner.

However, information is collected on the percentage of patients seen by a GP within the 48-hour GP access target. The most recent primary care access survey shows 100 per cent. of patients in Havering Primary Care Trust were able to see a GP within two working days.

HIV/AIDS (Discrimination)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to bring forward measures to counter discrimination which takes place against individuals who have HIV or AIDS; what priority he affords to such proposals; and if he will make a statement. [183002]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department contracts with the National AIDS Trust (NAT) to undertake activities to address stigma and discrimination associated with HIV, in line with the stated aims of the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV (2001). These activities aim to improve people's ability and willingness to access HIV services (including testing) and treatments, and to address inequalities.

Hospital Staff (Havering)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staff to patient ratio is in NHS hospitals in Havering. [182815]

Mr. Hutton: Information is not collected centrally on staff patient ratios.

Investors in Health Award

Sue Doughty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on establishing an Investors in Health award to encourage employers to promote good health in the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the benefits to *(a)* the national health service and *(b)* British business of encouraging employers to promote good health in the workplace. [182805]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* An exchange of correspondence between Standard Life Healthcare and the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, on establishing an "Investors in Health" award designed to promote better health at work took place in June this year.

Subsequent to this, officials from the Department will be meeting with representatives from Standard Life Healthcare, together with officials from the Health and Safety Executive and the Department for Work and Pensions on Wednesday 14 July.

Standard Life also included proposals on establishing an "Investors in health" award in its response to "Choosing Health?", the consultation on improving people's health and well-being, which ended on 28 June. This consultation will inform the content of a White Paper on improving health, which will be published in the autumn.

Litigation Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the amount of NHS resources spent on (i) defending and (ii) initiating legal actions. [181403]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department commissioned the Universities of Nottingham, Oxford and Surrey to produce "Evaluating Policy Alternatives for Patient Compensation" in 2001. This was part of the programme of work leading to the publication of "Making Amends", the Chief Medical Officer's proposal for reforming the approach to clinical negligence in the national health service. A copy has been placed in the Library.

This research showed that the NHS resources spent on defending and initiating legal actions, by scheme, in 2000–01, was:

£000

Scheme	*Awards*	*Claimant costs*	*Defence costs*
Clinical negligence scheme for trusts[1]	42,518	13,950	12,182
Existing liabilities scheme[2]	184,554	29,139	11,828
Total	227,072	43,089	24,010

Notes:

1. The clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST)—a voluntary pooling arrangement open to both NHS and primary care trusts and health authorities (HAs) in England. The scheme came into operation from 1 April 1995.
2. The existing liabilities scheme—established on 1 April 1996, and open to all trusts and HAs without any membership requirements and irrespective of whether the applicant is a member of the CNST. It provides cover for claims arising from liabilities, which occurred prior to 1 April 1995.

The NHS summarised accounts for 2002–03 records the total amount spent on negligence as £446 million. Of the total of £446 million, the amount of NHS resources spent on defending and initiating legal actions was £58 million and £59 million respectively.

Medical Training (Debt)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations have been received by the Department requesting the writing off of the debt of doctors' medical training for those who work exclusively within the NHS for a set period. [182714]

Mr. Hutton: There have been no formal written representations to the Department within the last two years on this matter. A few individuals writing to the Department to query their own student support arrangements have suggested this option as worthy of future consideration.

Mental Health

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include proposals for improving the mental health of older people in the White Paper on public health. [183164]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Our consultation, "Choosing Health? A consultation on action to improve people's health" ended on 28 June 2004. Over 2,200 responses have been received, and are now being analysed. These cover a wide range of topics, including the mental health of older people. We shall build on the consultation responses as we prepare our White Paper on improving people's health, which we plan to publish in the autumn.

Myasthenia Gravis

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on myasthenia gravis; and how the Government supports those diagnosed with the disease. [183069]

Dr. Ladyman: Myasthenia gravis is a neurological condition characterised by fluctuating levels of muscle weakness. There is no cure but treatment includes medication, surgery and palliation.

The national service framework for long-term conditions will focus on improving services for people with neurological conditions. While the framework will not cover myasthenia gravis specifically, it will recommend improvements in standards, care and support that will benefit everyone with a neurological condition.

We are committed to publishing the framework as soon as possible.

It is for health authorities, in partnership with other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to provide health services for their populations, including those with myasthenia gravis.

New Hospitals

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will define hospitals in relation to the NHS Plan target of 100 new hospitals by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [181655]

Mr. Hutton: The NHS Plan target is for "100 new hospital schemes in total between 2000 and 2010". A new hospital scheme is defined as a capital investment scheme with a value of £10 million or over.

This does not include specialist investment initiatives identified separately in the NHS Plan, such as diagnosis and treatment centres.

46 new hospital schemes, 39 private finance initiative and seven public capital, are already built and open, so the national health service is well on course to meet the target.

Health Service Finance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the most recent figures collected by each strategic health authority showing *(a)* the forecast financial surplus or deficit for each NHS trust and primary care trust, *(b)* the savings needed for each trust and primary care trust to deliver its 2004–05 recovery plan and *(c)* those savings as a percentage of trust or primary care trust income; and if he will make a statement. [183116]

Mr. Hutton: We have no plans to publish unaudited in-year financial management information. All national health service trusts and primary care trusts have been asked to plan for and achieve financial balance in 2004–05. Audited information for all NHS trusts will be published in their individual annual accounts and will be available centrally in autumn 2005.

NHS Continuing Care Criteria (Challenges)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether individuals challenging NHS continuing care criteria can get help from the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service *(a)* when considering requesting a case review, *(b)* on preparation of papers for review panel, *(c)* after being turned down by review panel and instigating the complaints process and *(d)* at the time of the complaint panel hearing. [182710]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) supports patients and their carers with grievances against health services which fall under the jurisdiction of the Health Ombudsman. People are able to seek support for all stages of the review and complaints procedures that apply to individuals wishing to challenge national health service continuing care criteria.

NHS Managers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managers were in post in the NHS in *(a)* 1979 and *(b)* 1997. [182408]

Mr. Hutton: Information on the number of administrative managers employed in the national health service consistent with that currently collected in the Department of Health non-medical workforce census is only available from 1995. The table shows the number of administrative managers employed in the NHS in 1995 and 1997.

NHS hospital and community health services: senior managers and managers in England as at 30 September each specified year

	1995	*1997*
Whole-time equivalent	20,049	21,434
Headcount	20,842	22,173

Source:
Department of Health non-medical workforce census

NHS Performance Criteria

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what main criteria he uses to judge the performance of the NHS in England. [183391]

Mr. Hutton: The independent Healthcare Commission is responsible for developing the indicators for use in the national health service performance ratings. The Healthcare Commission will shortly publish results for 2003–04.

NHS Posts

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are taken to ascertain whether Staff and Associate Specialist doctors are invited to apply for NHS posts which go to overseas consultants recruited to work in the UK. [183208]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 12 July 2004]*: The appointment procedure for consultants working in the national health service is set out in the National Health Service (Appointment of Consultants) Regulations 1996 and also the Good Practice Guidance 1996. These require an open and competitive process that should ensure consistent procedures are observed and that all candidates have an equal opportunity when applying and being interviewed for a consultant post.

The only consultant posts which are exclusively available for international candidates, which is done after attempts have been made to fill them in the United Kingdom, are posts advertised under the NHS international fellowships scheme, which aims to recruit eminent consultants from abroad for two year placements in hard-to-fill specialities.

In order to be eligible to apply for consultant posts, doctors must be on the specialist register held by the General Medical Council. If doctors in the staff and associate specialist grades are on the specialist register, they are therefore eligible to apply for consultant posts. Most staff and associate specialist grade doctors are not on the specialist register and are therefore not eligible to apply for such posts.

However, two initiatives are currently being taken forward that will increase the opportunities for these doctors to progress to the specialist register. These are the establishment of the postgraduate medical education training board and the proposals for reform set out in the consultation document, "Choice and Opportunity".

NHS Professionals

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what change in temporary staffing costs he expects for individual NHS trusts which sign up to NHS Professionals; [182655]

(2) on what basis the budget for NHS Professionals for 2004–05 and 2005–06 was agreed; [182658]

(3) what representations he has received from NHS trusts raising concerns about working with NHS Professionals; [182659]

(4) what targets have been set by his Department for NHS trusts to use NHS Professionals; and what progress has been made towards meeting those targets; [182660]

(5) whether it is his policy that NHS trusts should work with NHS Professionals on a mandatory basis; and if he will make a statement; [182661]

(6) what representations he has received from NHS trusts who lost bank staff to private agencies when the bank was transferred to NHS Professionals; and if he will make a statement. [182663]

Mr. Hutton: In April 2004, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State established the NHS Professionals special health authority to provide, in partnership with national health service bodies, a national service managing the supply of temporary staff for the NHS in England.

While NHS bodies are not required to use NHS Professionals' services, they have been encouraged by the Department to engage with the special health authority to understand the benefits it can offer for the cost effective management of temporary staffing. It is hoped and anticipated, therefore, that the number of NHS bodies using NHS Professionals will steadily expand.

NHS Professionals is a not-for-profit organisation that brings value to local health economies through two routes; firstly, by working with trusts to help reduce demand for temporary staff and secondly, through commission rates for the supply of temporary staff.

Rates charged by NHS Professionals currently stand at an average of 7.5 per cent. This is at least 13 per cent., less than the average cost of employing staff through a commercial agency operating within agency framework agreements. Trusts should therefore save money by using the NHS Professionals service. The majority of trusts which have implemented the NHS Professionals service report a reduction in their use of temporary staffing by private agencies. I am not aware of any representations from NHS trusts with concerns about working with the special health authority.

The Department has provided financial support of £26.6 million in 2004–05 on the basis of a rigorous review of NHS Professionals' business plan, recognising that NHS Professionals expects to grow the business to a point where it is self funding in the near future. Further information on NHS Professionals' objectives and targets are contained within the business plan, copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS Security

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1554W, on NHS security, when he expects statistics to become available on the number of security incidents in the NHS since 2002. [182427]

Mr. Hutton: The national health service security management service is currently developing systems and processes to support security related incident reporting in other areas.

Statistics on physical assaults taking place in the NHS will be available from the 2004–05 financial year.

NHS Staffing

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were working within the (i) East Leeds, (ii) North East Leeds and (iii) South Leeds Primary Care Trust between September 2001 and September 2003. [183071]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]*: The information is set out in the table.

Qualified general medical practitioners and practice nurses employed by unrestricted principals and equivalents (UPEs[1]) for primary care trusts (PCTs) in Leeds

	East Leeds PCT		Leeds North East PCT		South Leeds PCT	
	Doctors[2]	Practice nurses	Doctors[2]	Practice nurses	Doctors[2]	Practice nurses
2001	102	57	113	58	89	47
2002	94	59	112	58	85	47
2003	106	57	121	62	100	49

[1] UPEs include general medical service unrestricted principals, personal medical service (PMS) contracted general practitioners and PMS salaried GPs.
[2] Doctors = General practitioners.
Source:
Department of Health.

Nursing Staff

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses there were available in the NHS in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1985 and *(c)* 1997. [182411]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is shown in the table.

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff including practice nurses[1] employed by unrestricted principals (UPEs)[2] in England as at 30 September each year

headcount

	[3]1979	1985	1997
All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	192,050	275,420	318,860
of which:			
HCHS staff	190,240	271,380	300,470
Practice nurses[1]	[4]1,810	[4]4,030	18,390

[1] Practice nurse figures were collected on 1 October.
[2] UPEs includes general medical service unrestricted principals, personal medical service (PMS) contracted general practitioners and PMS salaried GPs.
[3] HCHS staff exclude community staff for these years.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] Practice nurse figures are estimated for these years.
Note:
Due to rounding totals may not equal the sum of component parts.
Figures exclude agency staff
A new classification of the non-medical workforce was introduced in 1995. Information based on this classification is not directly comparable with earlier years.
Source:
Department of Health non-medical workforce census
Department of Health general and personal medical services survey

Waiting Lists/Times (London)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the latest average waiting time for patients in accident and emergency departments in Havering from first consultant to final treatment is; [182834]

(2) what the latest average waiting time is for patients in accident and emergency departments in each of London's boroughs. [182836]

Mr. Hutton: Information on average waiting times in accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally. The Department does, however, publish data on the percentage of patients spending four hours or less in A&E from arrival to discharge, admission or transfer.

This data can be found on the Department's website at www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/total_time_ae.htm.

These figures are also available in the Library.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are waiting for an operation in each London borough; [182814]

(2) what the latest average waiting time is to get an appointment with a consultant after a referral from a general practitioner in the London borough of Havering; [182829]

(3) what the current average waiting time is to see a consultant in each London borough. [182832]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Waiting times for first out-patient appointment, quarter ended March 2004, Commissioner based—strategic health authority (SHA)

Code	Name	Code	Primary care trust (PCT) name	Estimated median time patients waited from GP referral to first out-patient appointment (weeks)
Q04	North West London	5K5	Brent PCT	8.29
Q04	North West London	5HX	Ealing PCT	6.41
Q04	North West London	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	6.77
Q04	North West London	5K6	Harrow PCT	9.36
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	7.69
Q04	North West London	5HY	Hounslow PCT	7.03
Q04	North West London	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	7.43
Q04	North West London	5LC	Westminster PCT	7.49
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet PCT	8.25
Q05	North Central London	5K7	Camden PCT	7.76
Q05	North Central London	5C1	Enfield PCT	8.55
Q05	North Central London	5C9	Haringey PCT	6.87
Q05	North Central London	5K8	Islington PCT	6.48
Q06	North East London	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	9.77
Q06	North East London	5C3	City and Hackney PCT	6.78
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering PCT	8.98
Q06	North East London	5C5	Newham PCT	9.54

Waiting times for first out-patient appointment, quarter ended March 2004, Commissioner based—strategic health authority (SHA)

Code	Name	Code	Primary care trust (PCT) name	Estimated median time patients waited from GP referral to first out-patient appointment (weeks)
Q06	North East London	5NA	Redbridge PCT	10.02
Q06	North East London	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	8.52
Q06	North East London	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	9.07
Q07	South East London	TAK	Bexley PCT	7.79
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley PCT	6.20
Q07	South East London	5A8	Greenwich PCT	7.05
Q07	South East London	5LD	Lambeth PCT	8.16
Q07	South East London	5LF	Lewisham PCT	8.47
Q07	South East London	5LE	Southwark PCT	8.79
Q08	South West London	5K9	Croydon PCT	7.32
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston PCT	6.74
Q08	South West London	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	6.26
Q08	South West London	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	7.44
Q08	South West London	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	6.59

Source:

Department of Health form QM08.

Patients waiting for elective admission, April 2004—Commissioner based

SHA code	SHA name	Code	PCT name	Total waiting
Q04	North West London	5K5	Brent PCT	4,225
Q04	North West London	5HX	Ealing PCT	5,125
Q04	North West London	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2,457
Q04	North West London	5K6	Harrow PCT	1,273
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	3,501
Q04	North West London	5HY	Hounslow PCT	3,435
Q04	North West London	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,800
Q04	North West London	5LC	Westminster PCT	2,513
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet PCT	5,590
Q05	North Central London	5K7	Camden PCT	2,831
Q05	North Central London	5C1	Enfield PCT	4,913
Q05	North Central London	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	3,312
Q05	North Central London	5K8	Islington PCT	2,691
Q06	North East London	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	3,419
Q06	North East London	5C3	City and Hackney PCT	2,524
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering PCT	4,866
Q06	North East London	5C5	Newham PCT	3,809
Q06	North East London	5NA	Redbridge PCT	4,470
Q06	North East London	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	3,887
Q06	North East London	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	3,516
Q07	South East London	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	3,925
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley PCT	4,981
Q07	South East London	5A8	Greenwich PCT	4,120
Q07	South East London	5LD	Lambeth PCT	3,811
Q07	South East London	5LF	Lewisham PCT	3,910
Q07	South East London	5LE	Southwark PCT	3,388
Q08	South West London	5K9	Croydon PCT	5,510
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston PCT	3,122
Q08	South West London	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	2,326
Q08	South West London	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	4,556
Q08	South West London	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	3,306

Note:

The above figures show numbers waiting for in-patient admission which may be for treatment and not necessarily an operation.

Source:

Department of Health Monthly Monitoring.

Patients waiting for elective admission, April 2004—Commissioner based

SHA code	SHA name	Code	PCT name	Estimated median time patients have been waiting (months)
Q04	North West London	5K5	Brent PCT	2.3
Q04	North West London	5HX	Ealing PCT	2.2
Q04	North West London	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2.0
Q04	North West London	5K6	Harrow PCT	5.5
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	2.3
Q04	North West London	5HY	Hounslow PCT	2.2
Q04	North West London	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	2.1
Q04	North West London	5LC	Westminster PCT	2.1
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet PCT	2.5
Q05	North Central London	5K7	Camden PCT	2.3
Q05	North Central London	5C1	Enfield PCT	2.7
Q05	North Central London	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	2.3
Q05	North Central London	5K8	Islington PCT	2.2
Q06	North East London	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	2.5
Q06	North East London	5C3	City and Hackney PCT	2.0
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering PCT	2.4
Q06	North East London	5C5	Newham PCT	2.1
Q06	North East London	5NA	Redbridge PCT	2.5
Q06	North East London	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	2.0
Q06	North East London	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	2.7
Q07	South East London	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	2.4
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley PCT	2.5
Q07	South East London	5A8	Greenwich PCT	2.3
Q07	South East London	5LD	Lambeth PCT	2.3
Q07	South East London	5LF	Lewisham PCT	2.5
Q07	South East London	5LE	Southwark PCT	2.3
Q08	South West London	5K9	Croydon PCT	2.5
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston PCT	2.2
Q08	South West London	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	2.2
Q08	South West London	5M7	Button and Merton PCT	2.4
Q08	South West London	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	2.3

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Monitoring.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients are waiting for orthopaedic surgery in each London borough; [182817]

(2) how many people are waiting for knee replacements in the London Borough of Havering; [182826]

(3) how many people are waiting for hip replacements in each of the London boroughs. [182827]

Mr. Hutton: The Department does not collect this information by specific procedure or by London borough.

Data on patients waiting for trauma and orthopaedic elective admission in each London primary care trust is shown in the table.

Patients waiting for elective admission, trauma and orthopaedics, March 2004, Commissioner based

SHA code	SHA name	Code	PCT name	Total waiting
Q04	North West London	5K5	Brent PCT	899
Q04	North West London	5HX	Ealing PCT	1,126
Q04	North West London	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	442
Q04	North West London	5K6	Harrow PCT	926
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	947
Q04	North West London	5HY	Hounslow PCT	777
Q04	North West London	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	347
Q04	North West London	5LC	Westminster PCT	527
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet PCT	1,443
Q05	North Central London	5K7	Camden PCT	551
Q05	North Central London	5C1	Enfield PCT	1,093
Q05	North Central London	5C9	Haringey PCT	614
Q05	North Central London	5K8	Islington PCT	585
Q06	North East London	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	742
Q06	North East London	5C3	City and Hackney PCT	347
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering PCT	1,178
Q06	North East London	5C5	Newham PCT	598
Q06	North East London	5NA	Redbridge PCT	1,155

Patients waiting for elective admission, trauma and orthopaedics, March 2004, Commissioner based

SHA code	SHA name	Code	PCT name	Total waiting
Q06	North East London	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	630
Q06	North East London	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	1,029
Q07	South East London	5AX	Bexley PCT	888
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley PCT	1,374
Q07	South East London	5A8	Greenwich PCT	875
Q07	South East London	5LD	Lambeth PCT	658
Q07	South East London	5LF	Lewisham PCT	1,064
Q07	South East London	5LE	Southwark PCT	579
Q08	South West London	5K9	Croydon PCT	1,694
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston PCT	594
Q08	South West London	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	475
Q08	South West London	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	1,335
Q08	South West London	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	560

Source:
Department of Health form QF01.

Primary Care Centres

Andy King: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the Government achieved its target of delivering 500 primary care centres by April; whether the Government are on track to achieve its target of *(a)* an additional 125 primary care centres by 2006 and *(b)* a further 125 primary care centres by 2008; and what the state of progress was at 1 April; [182457]

(2) whether the Government achieved its target of modernising 3,000 general practitioner premises by April. [182458]

Mr. Hutton: The Government are supporting one of the largest and most sustained programmes of modernisation of primary care premises in the history of the national health service.

The target date to deliver 500 one-stop primary care centres and the replacement or refurbishment of up to 3,000 general practitioner practice premises is December 2004. The achievement of the first target will provide a platform to deliver the further targets for more one-stop centres by 2008.

Sunbeds

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures the Department is taking to ensure that tanning outlets are adequately staffed and supervised to supply accurate information and advice on sunbed use to the public regarding *(a)* the age of customers, *(b)* the appropriateness of their skin or medical conditions to sunbed use and *(c)* the use of eye protection while tanning; [183047]

(2) what estimates he has made of *(a)* the number of people using sunbeds and *(b)* the total number of sunbed sessions in each of the last 10 years; [183048]

(3) on what medical evidence the recommendation that people under 16 years old should not use sunbeds is based; [183050]

(4) what measures are in place to monitor the effectiveness of the Health and Safety Executive guidelines on keeping sunbed use to a maximum of 20 sessions per person per year; [183051]

(5) what recent steps he has taken, in addition to the Health and Safety Executive guidance, to ensure that children and parents are made aware of the health risks arising from sunbed use; and if he will make a statement; [183052]

(6)what action he is taking to ensure that tanning outlets provide accurate information and advice on sunbed use to the public; [183053]

(7) what action he is taking to monitor the implementation of the Health and Safety Executive guidelines on sunbed use. [183054]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The available information on sunbed use is provided as follows.

A Health Education Authority survey in 1999 found that sunbed use is most common in the 16 to 24-year-old age group with around 15 per cent. of this age group having had at least one sunbed session in the previous year.

Statistics published by the sunbed association show that:

8 per cent. of the United Kingdom population use a sunbed (over three million people),

38 per cent. of sunbed users use a sunbed to get a pre holiday tan,

58 per cent. of people say they use sunbeds to look healthier.

There is no conclusive direct evidence that sunbed exposure causes skin cancer from either of the recent reports on the effects of ultra violet radiation (UVR) from the National Radiological Protection Board and from the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection. The greatest source of UVR exposure is from the sun.

The Health and Safety Executive has recommended that people under 16 should not use sunbeds. This recommendation was made based on expert medical advice.

Monitoring of Health and Safety Executive guidelines is the responsibility of local authority environmental health officers.

The SunSmart campaign, which is funded by UK health departments, is working to see guidelines clearly displayed wherever sunbeds are used.

At the request of Ministers, the SunSmart campaign is actively disseminating key messages regarding the dangers of sunbeds. The campaign is distributing over one million postcards with a red lobster, creative to 16 to 24-years-olds which include a sunbed warning. The SunSmart website, www.sunsmart.org.uk, also has a dedicated section on the dangers of sunbed use under the 'stay safe' section. This section includes information on who we recommend should never use a sunbed, which includes people who;

are under 16,

have fair or freckly skin,

burn easily,

have a lot of moles,

have had skin cancer in the pas

have a family history of skin cancer,

are using medication that increases your sensitivity to UVR.

The recently convened sunbed summit (29 March 2004) brought together academic experts, representatives of the sunbed association, health professionals and other interested parties to consider how best to protect sunbed users; and to increase their awareness of the potential dangers that might arise from sunbed use.

An outcome of the sunbed summit is that an expert group coordinated by Cancer Research UK will work with the sunbed association in reviewing information they provide in salons, the positioning of such materials, and training materials for their staff.

As part of the sunbed summit, Cancer Research UK and the sunbed association have discussed the possibility of putting SunSmart leaflets into salons.

Representations were also made to the sunbed association to improve their procedures for inspection. The sunbed association is currently considering its position. Local authority officers who have powers of inspection are responsible for enforcing the legislation, which requires tanning outlets to supply accurate information to their customers.

Training Nurses (Barking, Havering and Redbridge)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training nurses are working in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS trust. [182816]

Mr. Hutton: Nurse training is carried out in higher education institutions, with clinical placements in national health service trusts. Information is not collected centrally by Department on the number of clinical placements.

Waiting Lists/Times

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients within the *(a)* East Leeds, *(b)* North East Leeds and *(c)* South Leeds Primary Care Trust have been waiting for nine months or more for an operation; and how many were waiting for nine months or more for an operation (i) one year ago and (ii) two years ago in each case. [183070]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The information is shown in the table.

Number of patients waiting over nine months for in-patient treatment in primary care trusts (PCTs) in Leeds

	East Leeds PCT	Leeds North East PCT	South Leeds PCT
March 2004	0	1	1
March 2003	249	178	203
June 2002[1]	223	154	240

[1] earliest figure available.

Source:
Department of Health.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on NHS waiting times for MRI scans in Coventry South. [183078]

Dr. Ladyman: Data on waiting times for diagnostic tests including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are not collected centrally. However data may be collected locally by some strategic health authorities.

As recently announced by the Secretary of State, work is underway to eradicate waits for MRI scans through the national procurement of a mobile MRI service. This will deliver an approximate 10 per cent. increase in the capacity already available to the national health service. In practical terms, approximately 120,000 extra MRI scans will now be available to patients.

Wakefield West Primary Care Trust

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance he will offer to the Wakefield West Primary Care Trust to help with the recruitment of general practitioners in Normanton constituency; and if he will make a statement. [183031]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The West Yorkshire workforce development confederation and West Yorkshire primary care organisations developed the West Yorkshire primary care recruitment, retention and return forum in August 2003, chaired by an assistant director of Wakefield West Primary Care Trust (PCT).

The strategy aims to ensure that the PCTs in West Yorkshire are able to recruit and retain a workforce which has the ability to meet the needs of patients within a primary care setting and so meet national service and workforce targets relevant to primary care.

Warrington Hospital

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* physiotherapists, *(d)* health care assistants and *(e)* scientists were employed at Warrington Hospital in each year since 1997. [183045]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information requested is shown in the table.

Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS), and national health service hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff, in each specified NHS trust by each specified staff group.
As at 30 September each specified year

headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Warrington Hospital NHS Trust							
HCHS doctors	171	187	194	202	[1]	[1]	[1]
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	688	751	755	796	[1]	[1]	[1]
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	268	279	282	299	[1]	[1]	[1]
of which							
Qualified physiotherapy staff	29	34	37	37	[1]	[1]	[1]
NHS plan target group healthcare assistants	639	734	757	799	[1]	[1]	[1]
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust							
HCHS doctors	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	275	292	296
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	1,093	1,243	1,156
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	502	475	354
of which							
Qualified physiotherapy staff	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	74	80	75
NHS plan target group healthcare assistants	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	1,021	957	1,013

[1] Not applicable

Source:
Department of Health medical and dental workforce census.
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Women's Health

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what clinical guidelines are issued by the NHS for the treatment of *(a)* menorrhagia and *(b)* uterine fibroids; [181137]

(2) what information the NHS makes available to patients on alternatives to hysterectomy. [181138]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance on endometrial ablation for menorrhagia on 28 April 2004.

They have also issued guidelines on alternative surgical treatments for menorrhagia including balloon thermal endometrial ablation (August 2003), uterine artery embolisation for fibroids (August 2003), and free and fluid thermal endometrial ablation, March 2003.

NICE are also developing a clinical guideline on hysterectomy as part of their eighth wave work programme.

All NICE guidance is provided in formats written for patients, carers and the public. In addition, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists produces information for patients, developed from guidelines.

Diana Organ: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it costs the NHS to perform a *(a)* hydro thermo ablation, *(b)* microwave ablation, *(c)* balloon ablation and *(d)* uterine fibroid embolisation and *(e)* hysterectomy. [181141]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The national average cost of undertaking these procedures as an elective in-patient by a national health service trust is *(a)* to *(c)* between £740 and £846, *(d)* £1,513, and *(e)* £2,318.

Source:
Reference Costs 2003—relates to financial year 2002-03.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption Cases

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many cases in the area of *(a)* Cumbria county council, *(b)* Durham county council, *(c)* North Tyneside council, *(d)* South Tyneside council, *(e)* Northumberland county council, *(f)* Hartlepool council, *(g)* York city council, *(h)* Sunderland city council, *(i)* Gateshead borough council, *(j)* Darlington unitary authority, *(k)* Middlesbrough borough council, *(l)* Stockton council, *(m)* Newcastle city council, *(n)* North Yorkshire county council and *(o)* Redcar and Cleveland council a birth parent has been notified by the authority that they should consider taking legal advice about the position of their child who is in care or has been adopted in a case reviewed following the judgement in R. *v.* Cannings. [179922]

Margaret Hodge: Information about the advice given by local authorities to birth parents of children who are in the care of or who have been adopted in the specified local authority areas, is not held centrally. However, following my oral statement to the House of Commons on 23 February, I wrote to the Law Society, in order to ensure that the contents of my statement might, if considered helpful, be promulgated by the Law Society among its members.

Carers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what analysis he has undertaken into bullying linked to people being young carers. [181360]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on bullying is not collected centrally and there is no reliable basis for an estimate of prevalence. We recognise however, that children from a variety of backgrounds may experience bullying and any instance of bullying is unacceptable. Our guidance pack 'Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence' and the anti-bullying

charter and the anti-bullying website www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying offer detailed advice on preventing and addressing bullying. In November 2003 I launched our anti-bullying charter for schools, which schools are now signing. It is accompanied by a summary of effective practice to help schools review and enhance their anti-bullying policies. The charter was launched at the first of a series of regional conferences which we ran from November 2003 and to June 2004. These conferences have been an opportunity for schools and other partners to share good practice on this issue. Details of the conferences can be accessed online at www.teachernet.gov.uk/antibullying.

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers advises young carers to get in touch with Childline and The Anti-Bullying Campaign (Bullying Online) if they are being bullied. Both of these anti-bullying organisations have played significant roles in the conferences mentioned above—Esther Rantzen of ChildLine has been a keynote speaker and Bullying Online has been an exhibitor at several of the conferences.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many young carer's assessments have been conducted in each year since 1997; [181098]

(2) how many family assessments under the Children Act 1989 have been conducted in each year since the Act has been in force. [181099]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows the only available figures (2002 and 2003). These figures include any assessments that were made in relation to young carers and their families. Specific information about the number of young carers' assessments is not collected centrally.

Assessments[1] completed in the year ending 31 March—England

	Number	
	2002	*2003*
Initial assessments	261,500	263,900
Core assessments	56,100	55,700

[1] Figures for initial and core assessments include unborn children.

Source:
CPR3 return.

Child Care

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many childcare places have been *(a)* created and *(b)* lost in England in each year since 1997. [180787]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* Since 1997, over one million new child care places have been created which, taking into account turnover, have added over 540,000 places to the stock of places available, helping nearly a million more children.

The following table provides details of the number of child care places that have been created and closed in England for each year since 1997.

Number of child care places created in England

	Out of school places	*Full day care places*	*Childminder places*	*Total*
1997–98	—	—	—	7,455
1998–99	—	—	—	66,210
1999–2000	63,978	29,089	39,961	133,028
2000–01	87,070	33,997	47,156	168,223
2001–02	65,997	29,310	44,449	139,756
2002–03	93,394	35,696	56,284	185,374
2003–04	119,323	114,677	72,063	306,063

Number of child care places closed in England

	Out of school places	*Full day care places*	*Childminder places*	*Total*
1997–98	—	—	—	1,491
1998–99	—	—	—	13,242
1999–2000	9,574	11,830	43,826	65,230
2000–01	17,611	12,608	51,007	81,226
2001–02	12,967	7,556	36,454	56,977
2002–03	23,873	12,130	62,071	98,074
2003–04	58,252	39,198	51,796	149,246

Note:
Information prior to 1999, when Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships were established, is limited and based largely on data from the out of school child care initiative. These figures do not include places created or closed across the wider child care environment.

Children's Commissioner

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the proposed Children's Commissioner will have the right to take up individual cases of children. [182234]

Margaret Hodge: The Government proposal is that the Children's Commissioner may on his own initiative hold an inquiry into the case of an individual child for the purpose of investigation and making recommendations. This is subject to the following conditions:

(a) the case must raise issues of public policy of relevance to other children;

(b) the Commissioner must ensure that the inquiry would not duplicate work that is the function of another person;

(c) the Commissioner must consult the Secretary of State;

(d) the Commissioner must publish a report containing his recommendations and send a copy to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may also direct the Commissioner to hold an inquiry into the case of an individual child which in the Secretary of State's opinion raises issues of relevance to other children.

Connexions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the effect of provisions in the Learning and Skills Act 2000 upon the freedom of private providers of the Connexions service to operate under a lead body model. [183951]

Margaret Hodge: The Learning and Skills Act 2000 does not define how the Connexions service should be delivered and it makes no provisions which have an effect on the freedom of private providers to operate under a lead body model.

Down's Syndrome

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what work has been undertaken by his Department to benefit children with Down's syndrome since the Green Paper Excellence for all Children—meeting special educational needs; and if he will make a statement. [183611]

Margaret Hodge: The SEN and Disability Act 2001 gave all pupils with SEN including those with Down's syndrome, the right to be educated in mainstream schools where that is what their parents want and it would not jeopardise the learning and safety of others. That Act also made it unlawful for educational providers to discriminate against those pupils with a disability by, treating them less favourably than non-disabled pupils on the grounds of their disability, without justification.

Building on the existing statutory framework, the Governments Strategy for SEN—Removing barriers to achievement, launched February this year, sets out our vision for giving all children with SEN and disabilities, including those with Down's syndrome, the opportunity to succeed. This strategy builds on proposals for the reform of the children's services in "Every Child Matters". It sets a new agenda for improvement and action at a national and local level, in four key areas: early intervention; removing barriers to learning; raising expectations and achievement and delivering improvements in partnership. The Department has invited partners, including colleagues from the Down's Syndrome Association to collaborate on the planning, management and delivery of its Inclusion Development Programme being developed as part of removing barriers to achievement.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* availability and *(b)* competencies of speech and language therapists working with children with Down's syndrome. [183612]

Margaret Hodge: In the "NHS improvement Plan", published on 24 June, we reiterated our commitment to increase the numbers of frontline NHS staff. With the extra investment announced in the 2002 Budget, we expect the NHS to have net increases of at least 30,000 therapists and scientists, including speech and language therapists by 2008. The Children's NSF will develop new national standards for the NHS, social services and their interface with education. It will build on current Government programmes to develop an integrated approach to supporting children with SEN and disabilities, including those pupils with Down's syndrome, ensuring that care is designed around the needs of the individual child and their families.

Within this overall framework, it is a matter for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and services. They have the resources to commission services, and to identify the number of professional staff they need to deliver those services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of speech and language therapy.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of young people who will receive education maintenance allowance in the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council region in (i) 2004/05, (ii) 2005/06 and (iii) 2006/07 who will be studying at a further education college. [182335]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department estimates the number of 16 to 18-year-olds expected to receive education maintenance allowance in the Greater Manchester area as 21,700 in academic year 2004/05, 24,800 in 2005/06, and 25,800 in 2006/07. In much of the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council area many 17 and 18-year-olds will benefit in 2004/05 because they live in an EMA pilot LEA area. The estimated take up of EMA among 16-year-olds in the Greater Manchester area in 2004/05 is 12,550. This is 59 per cent. of the estimated population of 16-year-olds eligible for EMA on income grounds, and 35 per cent. of the total cohort. The proportion of 16-year-olds in full-time education who study at further education colleges or higher education colleges in the Greater Manchester LSC region is 41 per cent.

FE Colleges

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many further education colleges have failed inspections in each of the past 10 years. [183441]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last three academic years the number of further education colleges judged to be inadequate by the inspectorates is shown as follows.

2001/02: 15 colleges out of 105 inspected

2002/03: 10 colleges out of 103 inspected

2003/04: 9 colleges out of 68 inspections published so far

Prior to April 2001, inspections were carried out under a different framework and colleges were given no overall grading. Of the 12 colleges judged inadequate in 2001/02 that are still in independent existence 10 are no longer judged to be inadequate and one remains to be re-inspected. Colleges inspected in 2002/03 and 2003/04 have yet to be subject to full re-inspection. (The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is required to intervene promptly when provision is judged unsatisfactory.)

Foreign Language Learning

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage students to study a foreign language. [183638]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: In December 2002, the Department for Education and Skills published a National Languages Strategy "Languages for All: Languages for Life—A Strategy for England". It lays out the Government's plans to increase the number of people of all ages with (foreign) language skills. The strategy's key objectives are: to deliver opportunities for all Key Stage 2 pupils to learn a foreign language by the end of the decade; to introduce a new voluntary recognition scheme to provide an alternative qualification for giving learners credit for their language skills; and, to increase the number of people studying languages in further and

higher education and work-based learning. The implementation of the strategy is being steered by a National Director for Languages and supported by a dedicated investment rising to £10 million per year by 2005–06.

By introducing language learning at an earlier age we believe that pupils will be more motivated and enthused at Key Stage 3 and will want to continue to build on their language skills at Key Stage 4 and beyond. By providing alternative language qualification routes we will provide more flexibility to offer learners a wider range of relevant language learning programmes.

Higher Education Bill

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research his Department has undertaken into the attitudes of *(a)* parents of schoolchildren and *(b)* schoolchildren towards university education since the publication of the Higher Education Bill. [183639]

Alan Johnson: As part of our regular stakeholder tracking study of parents, schools staff and LEAs, the last wave of which was run in March 2004, we posed questions on attitudes to higher education among parents of schoolchildren.

The recently launched 'Next Steps' study, also known as the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England interviews both school pupils and their parents. Among the topics are questions to both pupils and parents on their views on a number of educational issues, including their expectations for the young people's futures, such as possible participation in HE. The core of Next Steps is a survey of more than 20,000 Year 9 pupils and their parents.

Wave 1 of the study began in early April 2004, is currently in progress and will continue to September 2004. The current target date for making data available from Wave 1 of the study is June 2005.

Higher Education Regulation Review Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how the members of the Higher Education Regulation Review Group were chosen; and what the terms of reference of the Group will be; [183631]

(2) what relationship the Higher Education Regulation Review Group will have with the Better Regulation Review Group; [183632]

(3) what targets the Higher Education Regulation Review Group has been set; [183633]

(4) how often the Higher Education Regulation Review Group will meet; [183634]

(5) whether the Department is supporting the Higher Education Regulation Review Group with staff members; [183635]

(6) what the budget is for the Higher Education Regulation Review Group in 2004–05. [183636]

Alan Johnson: The Higher Education Regulation Review Group (HERRG) has been established to help Education sector; and ensure that regulatory demands are effectively assessed by those who impose them. Its creation was recommended by the Better Regulation Review Group (BRRG) which will disband in the autumn. It is chaired by Dame Patricia Hodgson and has 11 other members drawn from senior managers of Higher Education Institutions. These were appointed from those who applied to details circulated to Higher Education Institutions by UniversitiesUK, Standing Conference of Principals and other representative bodies. The HERRG will meet up to six times per year. It is supported by a Secretariat of DfES staff and has a budget of £35,000 per year. Terms of reference are available at Annex 1 of the "Government Response to the BRRG Interim Report" published on 17 June 2004 (http://www.dfes.gov.uk/hegateway/hereform/). The HERRG is meeting for the first time shortly to discuss its future work plan.

Looked-after Children

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of the policy to place looked-after children in family homes instead of children's homes since the policy was announced; what estimate he has made of the financial implications of the policy; and if he will make a statement. [183146]

Margaret Hodge: One of the Government's objectives for children's social services is to ensure that all children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care for the duration of their childhood[1]. Most children's needs are such that they will develop more positively in family settings rather than in residential care, although for a minority of children residential care will continue to offer the best solution. In most cases caring for children in a family setting will also cost less than residential care.

The Government have a £113 million, three year programme called Choice Protects which is helping local authorities to improve the way they plan and commission all placements and services for looked after children. In order to assess the costs and effectiveness of different services for children in need the Department of Health has funded a research programme which has looked in depth at a number of questions including the consequences of different types of child care provision. Publication of these findings is planned for early 2005.

[1] Modernising Social Services, Department of Health, 1998.

Marriage and Relationship Support Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Marriage and Relationship Support Grant Programme provided in grants in each year between 1997 and 2004. [182923]

Margaret Hodge: The grants provided by the Marriage and Relationship Support Programme for the financial years since 1977 are as follows:

1997–98—£3.4 million;

1998–99—£3.0 million;

In line with Sir Graham Hart's recommendations in his report to the Lord Chancellor on Marriage Support Funding (published in November 1999), the allocation was increased as follows:

2000–01—£4 million;

2001–02—£4.5 million;

2002–03 and 2003–04—£5 million.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list for each year since 1997 the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181869]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: The Department does not hold this information centrally. To provide this information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the list are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–6. Information for 2003–4 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries in the House.

New Foundation Degrees

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which institutions have been awarded grants for developing new foundation degrees, and how much each received; [183651]

(2) if he will list the new foundation degrees that are to be developed under the Higher Education Funding Council for England funding. [183652]

Alan Johnson: This information was published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in their Outcomes Circular April 2004/15 entitled 'Allocation of Development Funds and Additional Places' and is available on their website. In summary a total of £5.6 million has been awarded for development funding across 101 higher and further education institutions. Full-time equivalent places totalling 8,960 have been awarded; 5,211 for 2004/05 and 3,749 for 2005/06.

Nursery Places

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress he has made with the London borough of Croydon in meeting the statutory obligation to provide free nursery places for all three-year-olds. [183173]

Margaret Hodge: My officials have been working closely with local authority officers with a view to ensuring that the authority meets its statutory responsibilities. As a result of those discussions I can confirm that all three-year-olds in Croydon will benefit from the free entitlement to a part-time early education

Residential Bursaries (Low Income Earners)

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of funding previously earmarked for residential bursaries for low income earners to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000 is being diverted to the education maintenance allowance. [180933]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None of the funding for residential bursaries, including that to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000, is being diverted to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Residential bursaries form part of Learner Support funding. This funding is targeted at those in greatest need. It is entirely separate and is available, along with EMAs, in respect of the assessed needs of individuals.

School Building

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 710W, on schools (capital investment), what mechanism will be used to scale back the bids for capital funding for Building Schools for the Future if the aggregate value of the outline business cases exceed the total funding available. [182513]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Partnerships for Schools is working with the projects in wave 1 to ensure that their value does not exceed the funding available. Partnerships for Schools is considering the scope of each project case-by-case, and will take into account a number of factors, such as the overall budget, value for money, educational impact of the projects, and our area guidelines.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* new schools, *(b)* replacement schools and *(c)* refurbished schools are to be provided in each of the Pathfinder and Wave One Building Schools for the Future projects. [182517]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The projects in Wave One of Building Schools for the Future, including the pathfinders, are at various stages of developing their outline business cases. The authorities will not, therefore, have finalised how many new, replacement or refurbished schools each will provide, having regard to value for money.

Science Learning Centres

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many universities have been selected to be part of his Department's initiative with the Wellcome Trust to create a national network of science learning centres; and how much each university has received; [183617]

(2) how much funding the Wellcome Trust has contributed towards the initiative to create a national network of science learning centres. [183618]

Alan Johnson: The National Network of Science Learning Centres is a £51 million joint initiative developed by the Department of Education and Skills and the Wellcome Trust. The Department for Education and Skills is contributing £26 million funding for the nine regional centres and the Welcome Trust is providing up

Management of 9 of the centres is led by a university or consortium of universities.

Each regional centre will receive between £2.1 million and £3.2million, according to the size of the region, over a 5-year funding period. The National Centre will receive funding for up to 10 years.

More information is available from the website www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk.

Secure Homes

Mr. McWalter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the supply of secure homes for children, with particular reference to the proposed closure of Stamford House Children's Secure Home; and if he will make a statement. [181097]

Margaret Hodge: We have been working closely, both with the Youth Justice Board and the Association of Directors of Social Services, to consider the implications for secure children's homes of the results of the Youth Justice Board's re-tendering exercise. We have examined the extent to which these homes will be used by the Youth Justice Board over the next two to five years for the placement of children through the youth justice system.

We understand that the Brunel unit and Stamford House have closed, and that a few others may close, on the basis that they will no longer be viable. That is why we have looked very closely at the demand for welfare placements to ensure that there are sufficient beds across the country for children who need to be placed in a secure children's home for welfare reasons.

The information we have gathered on actual bed usage through the Secure Accommodation Network suggests that there should be sufficient capacity within the system.

We have also carried out, jointly with the Association of Directors of Social Services, a survey of local authorities to gauge any hidden demand for welfare placements in secure children's homes. The response to this survey was disappointing, which may in itself demonstrate that unmet need is not a widespread concern to local authorities. Of the 22 responses received, only a small minority expressed concern about unmet need.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are in place to regulate schools' admissions policy in relation to children with special educational needs. [182323]

Margaret Hodge: School admission policies must have regard to the School Admissions Code of Practice. The code makes clear that children with special educational needs (SEN), but without a statement, must be treated as fairly as other applicants. Where a child has a statement of SEN that names the school, the governors of the school are under a duty to admit the child. If, however, a school is named in a child's statement and the governors refuse to admit the child, the child's parents or the local education authority maintaining the child's statement can make a complaint to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the proportion of appeals against admissions decisions which are made in relation to children with special educational needs. [182326]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* Admission appeals on behalf of children who have special educational needs (SEN) but do not have statements are considered in the same way as admission appeals on behalf of children who do not have SEN. In 2002/03, for all maintained primary and secondary schools, parents lodged 91,430 appeals against non-admission of their children. There is no separate assessment of the number of appeals made in relation to children with SEN.

Parents of children who have statements of SEN can appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal about the school named in their child's statement. In 2002/03, there were:

339 appeals solely against the school/type of school named in children's statements (11.2 per cent. of the total number of appeals);

56 appeals against refusal to change the name of a school and five against failure to name a school; and

774 appeals against the needs and provision, including the school or type of school specified in statements.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary school pupils were identified as having special educational needs as a proportion of the total school population in each local education authority in the last period for which figures are available. [183160]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN), January 2004 (provisional)[2], by local education authority and Government Office Region in England

	Maintained secondary				
	Total pupils	*Pupils with statements*	*Percentage[3]*	*SEN pupils without statements*	*Percentage[4]*
England	3,308,400	78,000	2.4	447,800	13.5
North East	179,200	4,200	2.3	24,500	13.7
Darlington	6,400	100	1.8	800	12.5
Durham	33,000	1,000	3.0	4,700	14.2
Gateshead	12,000	200	1.7	1,300	10.8
Hartlepool	6,700	100	1.5	1,200	17.9

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN), January 2004 (provisional)[2], by local education authority and Government Office Region in England

	Maintained secondary				
	Total pupils	*Pupils with statements*	*Percentage[3]*	*SEN pupils without statements*	*Percentage[4]*
Middlesbrough	5,800	200	3.4	1,000	17.2
Newcastle upon Tyne	17,500	300	1.7	2,500	14.3
North Tyneside	13,800	300	2.2	2,000	14.5
Northumberland	30,600	800	2.6	3,000	9.8
Redcar and Cleveland	10,300	200	1.9	2,000	19.4
South Tyneside	10,300	200	1.9	1,000	9.7
Stockton-on-Tees	12,900	300	2.3	1,400	10.9
Sunderland	20,090	500	2.5	3,500	17.5
North West	472,700	11,500	2.4	59,800	12.7
Blackburn with Darwen	9,600	200	2.1	1,800	18.8
Blackpool	8,800	200	2.3	1,400	15.9
Bolton	19,900	700	3.5	3,500	17.6
Bury	12,000	400	3.3	1,500	12.5
Cheshire	47,700	1,300	2.7	4,000	8.4
Cumbria	35,300	700	2.0	3,900	11.0
Halton	8,300	300	3.6	1,200	14.5
Knowsley	10,200	200	2.0	2,000	19.6
Lancashire	76,700	2,200	2.9	8,600	11.2
Liverpool	33,500	500	1.5	6,000	17.9
Manchester	23,700	500	2.1	3,600	15.2
Oldham	16,800	200	1.2	1,600	9.5
Rochdale	14,400	300	2.1	1,600	11.1
Salford	12,700	200	1.6	1,900	15.0
Sefton	21,200	400	1.9	3,000	14.2
St. Helens	12,200	300	2.5	1,500	12.3
Stockport	17,100	400	2.3	2,300	13.5
Tameside	16,000	400	2.5	2,100	13.1
Trafford	16,400	200	1.2	1,800	11.0
Warrington	14,100	400	2.8	1,200	8.5
Wigan	21,400	700	3.3	2,800	13.1
Wirral	24,700	600	2.4	2,600	10.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	349,500	9,000	2.6	45,100	12.9
Barnsley	13,700	300	2.2	2,100	15.3
Bradford	34,700	900	2.6	5,800	16.7
Calderdale	15,400	400	2.6	1,500	9.7
Doncaster	21,900	700	3.2	2,300	10.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	23,500	500	2.1	2,500	10.6
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	16,200	300	1.9	2,300	14.2
Kirklees	26,800	900	3.4	3,300	12.3
Leeds	48,100	1,400	2.9	5,200	10.8
North East Lincolnshire	11,700	400	3.4	2,200	18.8
North Lincolnshire	10,900	400	3.7	1,900	17.4
North Yorkshire	41,600	900	2.2	3,900	9.4
Rotherham	20,400	600	2.9	2,900	14.2
Sheffield	31,600	500	1.6	5,400	17.1
Wakefield	22,400	400	1.8	2,400	10.7
York	10,500	200	1.9	1,500	14.3
East Midlands	297,300	7,000	2.4	38,900	13.1
Derby	15,500	500	3.2	2,200	14.2
Derbyshire	50,500	1,700	3.4	4,900	9.7
Leicester	18,300	600	3.3	3,700	20.2
Leicestershire	46,800	1,400	3.0	4,200	9.0
Lincolnshire	47,400	1,200	2.5	5,900	12.4
Northamptonshire	47,400	1,100	2.3	8,500	17.9
Nottingham	13,900	100	0.7	2,700	19.4
Nottinghamshire	55,100	200	0.4	6,700	12.2
Rutland	2,400	100	4.2	200	8.3
West Midlands	380,400	9,900	2.6	50,800	13.4
Birmingham	71,200	1,600	2.2	10,200	14.3
Coventry	21,500	400	1.9	3,800	17.7
Dudley	20,900	300	1.4	3,000	14.4
Herefordshire	10,500	400	3.8	1,600	15.2
Sandwell	20,000	500	2.5	3,200	16.0
Shropshire	18,300	600	3.3	2,200	12.0
Solihull	15,800	300	1.9	1,800	11.4

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN), January 2004 (provisional)[2], by local education authority and Government Office Region in England

	Maintained secondary				
	Total pupils	*Pupils with statements*	*Percentage[3]*	*SEN pupils without statements*	*Percentage[4]*
Staffordshire	62,400	2,200	3.5	5,900	9.5
Stoke-on-Trent	15,200	500	3.3	2,700	17.8
Telford and Wrekin	10,600	500	4.7	1,400	13.2
Walsall	21,500	500	2.3	2,600	12.1
Warwickshire	34,200	900	2.6	5,100	14.9
Wolverhampton	17,000	400	2.4	1,800	10.6
Worcestershire	41,200	800	1.9	5,400	13.1
East of England	387,100	7,900	2.0	48,500	12.5
Bedfordshire	37,800	900	2.4	5,100	13.5
Cambridgeshire	32,700	1,000	3.1	3,700	11.3
Essex	90,700	1,400	1.5	10,600	11.7
Hertfordshire	79,300	900	1.1	8,900	11.2
Luton	12,400	300	2.4	2,000	16.1
Norfolk	46,200	1,200	2.6	6,700	14.5
Peterborough	12,800	400	3.1	2,100	16.4
Southend-on-Sea	12,200	200	1.6	1,400	11.5
Suffolk	54,400	1,600	2.9	6,500	11.9
Thurrock	8,600	200	2.3	1,500	17.4
London	420,200	10,600	2.5	68,800	16.4
Inner London	126,100	3,700	2.9	24,900	19.7
Camden	9,700	300	3.1	1,400	14.4
City of London	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hackney	7,400	200	2.7	1,600	21.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	7,200	200	2.8	1,300	18.1
Haringey	11,300	300	2.7	2,800	24.8
Islington	7,900	200	2.5	1,800	22.8
Kensington and Chelsea	3,500	100	2.9	600	17.1
Lambeth	7,800	200	2.6	1,800	23.1
Lewisham	11,600	300	2.6	1,800	15.5
Newham	18,100	600	3.3	3,300	18.2
Southwark	10,000	300	3.0	2,800	28.0
Tower Hamlets	12,900	500	3.9	1,800	14.0
Wandsworth	10,300	300	2.9	2,400	23.3
Westminster	8,400	200	2.4	1,500	17.9
Outer London	294,100	6,900	2.3	43,900	14.9
Barking and Dagenham	12,100	300	2.5	1,900	15.7
Barnet	21,200	500	2.4	3,100	14.6
Bexley	18,000	400	2.2	2,500	13.9
Brent	15,900	400	2.5	2,200	13.8
Bromley	22,200	600	2.7	2,700	12.2
Croydon	18,700	300	1.6	3,200	17.1
Ealing	15,000	300	2.0	2,900	19.3
Enfield	21,600	400	1.9	4,200	19.4
Greenwich	14,400	500	3.5	3,200	22.2
Harrow	9,100	300	3.3	1,900	20.9
Havering	16,500	400	2.4	1,200	7.3
Hillingdon	17,800	500	2.8	1,600	9.0
Hounslow	16,700	500	3.0	2,900	17.4
Kingston upon Thames	9,300	100	1.1	1,100	11.8
Merton	8,600	300	3.5	1,400	16.3
Redbridge	20,000	300	1.5	2,500	12.5
Richmond upon Thames	7,400	300	4.1	900	12.2
Sutton	15,700	300	1.9	1,400	8.9
Waltham Forest	13,900	400	2.9	3,100	22.3
South East	511,800	10,500	2.1	74,800	14.6
Bracknell Forest	6,100	100	1.6	700	11.5
Brighton and Hove	12,400	200	1.6	1,800	14.5
Buckinghamshire	34,600	600	1.7	3,500	10.1
East Sussex	28,900	600	2.1	4,300	14.9
Hampshire	72,700	800	1.1	10,800	14.9
Isle of Wight	12,200	300	2.5	1,900	15.6
Kent	98,100	2,300	2.3	16,800	17.1
Medway	20,700	500	2.4	4,200	20.3
Milton Keynes	12,900	300	2.3	1,800	14.0
Oxfordshire	38,100	900	2.4	4,700	12.3

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN), January 2004 (provisional)[2], by local education authority and Government Office Region in England

	Maintained secondary				
	Total pupils	*Pupils with statements*	*Percentage[3]*	*SEN pupils without statements*	*Percentage[4]*
Portsmouth	10,100	100	1.0	2,100	20.8
Reading	6,200	200	3.2	600	9.7
Slough	8,400	200	2.4	1,400	16.7
Southampton	12,200	100	0.8	3,100	25.4
Surrey	59,500	1,200	2.0	8,400	14.1
West Berkshire	12,200	300	2.5	1,300	10.7
West Sussex	45,000	1,200	2.7	5,000	11.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	10,500	300	2.9	1,200	11.4
Wokingham	11,000	300	2.7	1,200	10.9
South West	310,200	7,300	2.4	36,400	11.7
Bath and North East Somerset	12,400	300	2.4	1,000	8.1
Bournemouth	10,000	100	1.0	1,400	14.0
Bristol, City of	15,700	400	2.5	2,700	17.2
Cornwall	33,100	1,400	4.2	4,600	13.9
Devon	42,300	900	2.1	4,100	9.7
Dorset	25,100	500	2.0	3,500	13.9
Gloucestershire	40,300	1,000	2.5	5,200	12.9
Isles of Scilly	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Somerset	3,200	100	3.1	500	15.6
Plymouth	19,000	500	2.6	2,000	10.5
Poole	8,600	100	1.2	1,200	14.0
Somerset	33,400	500	1.5	3,200	9.6
South Gloucestershire	17,000	400	2.4	2,000	11.8
Swindon	11,600	200	1.7	1,400	12.1
Torbay	9,200	200	2.2	1,000	10.9
Wiltshire	29,200	600	2.1	2,800	9.6

n/a = Not applicable, no schools of this type.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[3] Number of pupils with statements of SEN expressed as a percentage of total number of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Number of SEN pupils without statement expressed as a percentage of total number of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
Annual Schools' Census

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on funding for special needs education in Coventry, South. [182372]

Margaret Hodge: Coventry Local Education Authority reported that its planned net spend on special educational needs provision in Coventry in 2003–04 was £22,373,000.

We do not have a separate breakdown for the planned expenditure in Coventry, South.

Sure Start

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in Northampton, North have received services from a Surestart centre. [182841]

Margaret Hodge: The Sure Start local programme that covers Northampton, North is Camrose, located on the Spencer Estate in Northampton.

The programme has a register of 685 children who access its services. In March 2004 155 (23 per cent.) children under four years living in the catchment area had accessed services. The annual average of children seen is 19 per cent.

Youth Service

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his assessment is of the contribution of the Youth Service to reducing anti-social behaviour in local neighbourhoods; and if he will make a statement. [183659]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The document "Transforming Youth Service: Resourcing Excellent Youth Services" (2002) outlines our vision for the Youth Service and the unique contribution it should make to the personal and social development of young people. This includes working with young people to help prevent them becoming engaged in anti-social behaviour, and working with those who are already engaged in it. Youth Services work closely with the police and YOTs to do this.

Youth Services are run by local authorities and we do not collect statistics centrally about Youth Service activity in this area. However research findings from a range of sources illustrate the impact the service is having. The majority of Youth Service plans show that Youth Services have existing partnerships with the police or Young Offending Partnerships. These include targeting groups of young people reported to be engaged in anti-social behaviour. Partnership working with police and youth offending agencies will be one of the aspects covered in an evaluation study on the Youth Service due to be published later this year.

Universities League Table

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how he will compile the league table of universities based on student satisfaction survey; and what questions will be asked in the survey. [183647]

Alan Johnson: The information collected from the National Student Survey will not be used by me, or my Department, to formulate any sort of league table of institutions. The survey is being developed so that students can obtain information about Higher Education provision, based on the experience of other students, to help inform their choice about what and where to study. The specific questions on the survey have not yet been finalised. However, the broad categories are expected to be similar to those used in the 2003 pilot survey, covering teaching, assessment and feedback, personal development, course organisation and management, academic support, and learning resources.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 July 2004

TREASURY

Departmental Electricity Use

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department spent on electricity use in each year from 1997 to date. [181845]

Ruth Kelly: Available information is set out as follows.

HM Customs and Excise, Inland Revenue and Valuation Office Agency

Since 2001–02, the estate has been managed under the STEPS contract:

	£
2001–02	9,500,000
2002–03	11,889,000
2003–04	12,062,000

Information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Office for National Statistics

Information is only held from 1998.

	£
1997–98	Not available
1998–99	675,000
1999–2000	673,000
2000–01	533,000
2001–02	613,000
2002–03	536,000
2003–04	633,000

Royal Mint

	£
1997–98	1,376,000
1998–99	1,403,000
1999–2000	1,658,000
2000–01	1,363,000
2001–02	1,158,000
2002–03	950,000
2003–04	1,071,000

Debt Management Office

	£
1997–98	Not available
1998–99	8,000
1999–2000	10,000
2000–01	10,000
2001–02	11,000
2002–03	13,000
2003–04	48,000

National Savings & Investments

NS&I are minor occupiers of Inland Revenue buildings and are charged quarterly for utilities. Disaggregated data on electricity consumption is not available.

Government Actuary's Department

Since July 2003 £31,000 has been spent on electricity. Information for earlier years is not available.

Office of Government Commerce

OGC came into being in 2000 and OGC Buying Solutions was established in 2001:

			£
	OGC	*OGCBS*	*Total*
2000–01	164,986.00	—	165,000
2001–02	196,693.00	9,500.00	206,000
2002–03	180,688.00	9,100.00	190,000
2003–04	188,719.00	9,000.00	198,000

HM Treasury

	£
1997–98	221,000
1998–99	218,000
1999–2000	257,000
2000–01	161,000
2001–02	134,000
2002–03	288,000

Departmental Sustainable Development Impacts

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what have been identified as the most significant sustainable development impacts in relation to the operation of his Department's estate. [181849]

John Healey: Energy and water consumption, waste, travel and procurement.

Departmental Water Use

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department spent on water and sewerage services in each year since 1997. [181846]

Ruth Kelly: The information requested is given in the following table:

	IR/HMCE + VOA	*HMT*	*OGC*	*ONS*	*GAD*	*Royal Mint*
1997–98	[1]—	51,646	—	[2]—	[3]—	187,497
1998–99	[1]—	56,232	—	75,270	[3]—	187,027
1999–2000	[1]—	44,448	—	83,301	[3]—	166,210
2000–01	[1]—	35,724	33,688	118,561	[3]—	152,177

	IR/HMCE + VOA	HMT	OGC	ONS	GAD	Royal Mint
2001–02	[1]—	43,523	24,245	124,808	[3]—	153,464
2002–03	1,719,594	14,839	19,754	100,197	[3]—	136,356
2003–04	2,489,589	19,389	11,785	101,263	[3]—	161,511

[1] The information for years 1997–98, 1998–99, 1999–2000, 2000–01 and 2001–02 is not available to us and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
[2] No records for 1997–98
[3] Information included within IR figures for 1997 to October 1999 and HMCE from October 1999 to July 2003. No information on charges for the period from July 2003.
All values given are in £s.

Income Tax (Pensioners)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to public funds of exempting all pensioners from income tax for the first £10,000 of their earnings; and how many individual *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* pensioner households this would benefit. [182737]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 20 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1200W.

Inland Revenue Annual Report

Mr. Flight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what main categories of expenditure are contained within other miscellaneous expenditure shown in the Inland Revenue Annual Report for the year 2002–03 on page 69 at table 3; and what the main reasons are for the increase in this figure between 2001–02 and 2002–03. [181939]

Dawn Primarolo: The main categories of expenditure contained within the other miscellaneous expenditure item are as follows:

	£ million 2002–03	2002–01	Main cause for increase
Legal Costs	25.0	22.1	—
Consultancy	48.4	31.0	Additional expenditure in development of E Business; and to progress the Aspire project to procure an IT service partner, from July 2004, following the end of the contract with EDS.
Contracted Out Services	16.5	18.1	—
Publicity	25.1	12.5	Increased level of spending especially to publicise New Tax Credits and use of the internet for filing tax returns.
Post Office Charges	16.5	10.3	Increased payment to the Post Office, particularly in set up costs for the Post Office Card Account (POCA) which is now being used as a method of payment for child benefit and new tax credits.
Losses	20.2	7.4	£16.6 million of recoverable VAT was reported as a loss when it was not recovered within the prescribed 30 day time limit. This amount is included in HM Customs and Excise Trust Statement as VAT receipt, so the net cost to Government is nil.
Special Payments	28.8	7.8	Compensation to pension providers arising from delayed payment of Age Related Rebates, caused by difficulties with the National Insurance Recording System 2.
Valuation Office Agency	23.6	23.6	—
Miscellaneous	15.3	16.5	—
Total	219.4	149.3	—

Pension Contributions (Tax Relief)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of tax relief on pension contributions *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each of the next five years in the light of the revised Office for National Statistics figures for pension contributions published on 30 June. [182866]

Dawn Primarolo: Available estimates of tax relief on private pensions are contained in table 7.9 of Inland Revenue Statistics. The latest version is on the Inland Revenue website; http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7_9.pdf.

These estimates are due to be updated in September 2004.

Tax Credit Overpayments

Mr. Best: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the financial difficulties faced by *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit claimants as a result of overpayments made during 2003–04; and if he will make a statement; [183322]

(2) if he will introduce an amnesty for claimants who received overpayments of tax credits in the year 2003–04 as a result of the administrative problems experienced by the Inland Revenue. [183323]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Mr. Webb) on 9 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 1482W.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Crash Guidelines

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether after a crash involving a Ministry of Defence aircraft there are established procedures or guidelines for deciding whether other aircraft of the same type should be grounded. [183772]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* JSP551, vol. 1 section 205 annex c lays down the responsibility on Boards of Inquiry to report immediately hazards to flight safety to the Convening Authority, who will also be the Aircraft Operating Authority, and will have the authority to ground the aircraft if it is deemed necessary.

Bosnian War Crimes

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of British forces in locating Bosnian war-crime suspects, with particular reference to *(a)* Radovan Karadzic and *(b)* General Ratko Mladic. [159221]

Mr. MacShane: I have been asked to reply.

The UK remains fully committed to bringing Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic to trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia. Their continued presence at large is an obstacle to justice and reconciliation, and to the region's political and economic development.

UK troops have been involved in the detention of 21 indictees, of the total of 46 apprehended by NATO SFOR. The UK Government remains committed to diplomatic, political and operational efforts to bring about the detention and transfer to The Hague of all fugitive indictees.

Chinook Helicopter

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the contract to upgrade the Chinook Mark I helicopters to the Mark II version included the removal of the Mark I wiring loom mounting points. [183608]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* A review of the contract documentation has revealed no specific reference to the removal of Mark I wiring loom mounting points; it would be unusual for a contract of this scale to specifically mention the removal of individual wiring loom mounting points.

Flight Trials (Service Deviation)

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purpose is of a Service Deviation in flight trials. [183609]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* Trials, development and Operational Evaluation Unit procedures for the three services currently involve operation of service aircraft under the authority of Service Deviations. The purpose of a Service Deviation is to detail any particular flying limitations, conditions of use or equipment fit applicable to the scope of flying activity it is intended to cover.

Flight ZD576

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* people and *(b)* organisations have examined the wreckage of flight ZD576 since it has been stored at Fleetlands; and for what reasons. [183771]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* The wreckage of flight ZD576 is held in secure storage at DARA Fleetlands, Hampshire. Since it has been in storage there, no individual or organisation has sought permission to access the wreckage.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the questions tabled by the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr on 1 March, references *(a)* 158877, *(b)* 158884, *(c)* 158885, *(d)* 158854 and *(e)* 158862. [177577]

Mr. Ingram: I replied to the hon. Member as follows:

(a) 158877—18 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1139W;

(b) 158884—17 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1069–70W;

(c) 158885—17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1070W;

(d) 158854—6 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 643W;

(e) 158862—17 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1070W.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel have been based at Combined Joint Task Force headquarters in Baghdad, now renamed, since 1 May; and if he will give the *(a)* rank and *(b)* function of each individual. [183522]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* Currently the United Kingdom has 30 staff officers employed between the Multi National Force (MNF) and Multi National Corps (MNC) Headquarters (these were previously known as the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters). The UK contributes a variety of staff and command functions including a Lieutenant General in the role of Deputy Commanding General Operations and a Major General as Deputy Commanding General MNC. The UK also provides Brigadiers in the roles of Deputy Commanding General Strategy and Military Policy MNF and in the senior appointments within the military and police training teams.

In addition, the UK contributes staff officers to the logistics support, media, security, and strategic operations and plans functions within both MNF and MNC. Small teams of outer office administrators and drivers also support the UK contribution to the MNF and MNC Headquarters in Baghdad.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many cases involving *(a)* the killing and *(b)* the serious wounding of Iraqi civilians the local commander decided not to institute an investigation, broken down by unit. [173337]

Mr. Ingram: Information on the number of cases where the commanding officer decided not to institute an investigation is not currently available though it is now being collated from unit records. This exercise is likely to take some time.

Royal Navy Ships (Security)

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the need for the protection of Royal Naval ships from *(a)* fast attack boats and *(b)* suicide attacks. [183149]

Mr. Ingram: Detailed classified guidance on countering these threats has been issued to all Royal Navy and RFA vessels. This guidance is under continual review in the light of the lessons learnt during Op TELIC and developments elsewhere.

The Royal Navy's capability to counter fast attack boats and suicide attacks has been enhanced by a range of measures including additional training for ships' crews, the provision of extra close range weaponry, the fitting of night vision equipment in maritime Lynx and, when necessary, the deployment of Royal Marine Protection Teams on Royal Fleet Auxiliaries. Further measures are also under consideration.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Medicines

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Department of Trade and Industry on proposed rules on prescription-only medicines for animals. [183249]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* My officials from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate have been in regular contact with DTI officials on the rules for prescription-only medicines for animals following the publication of the Competition Commission Report on the Supply of Prescription-Only Veterinary Medicines. They have attended DTI ministerial meetings with the RCVS and BVA as part of the continuing consultations between Government and the veterinary profession on the implementation of the Competition Commission's recommendations.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how the Government intend to incentivise combined heat and power (CHP) under the next phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment, as mentioned in the CHP Strategy; [181972]

(2) what measures the Government propose to encourage the take-up of combined heat and power (CHP) under the current Building Regulations revision, as mentioned in the CHP Strategy. [181973]

Mr. Morley: Incentivising CHP under the next phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment and encouraging the take-up of CHP under the current Building Regulations revision were both included in the support measures set out in "The Government's Strategy for CHP to 2010", which we published on 26 April of this year. Proposals on the Energy Efficiency Commitment from April 2005 are currently out for consultation and Building Regulations proposals will shortly be published for consultation.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much she estimates the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has cost landowners. [183126]

Alun Michael: There is no obligation on landowners to incur any expenditure in respect of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Landowners will incur costs if they make use of the appeals and restrictions system, but there is no charge for using these systems which have been kept as simple as possible.

Local highway authorities and National Park authorities, in their capacity as access authorities under the Act, have powers to enable and manage open access in their areas and will be responsible for putting in place infrastructure such as signage, footbridges and gates. We hope that landowners and managers will work closely with them to ensure the new right is implemented in a way which benefits the public without adversely affecting the management of the land. In order to facilitate this the Countryside Agency is supporting a series of half-day briefing sessions, open to all landowners and land managers, organised by the Country Land and Business Association and supported by the National Farmers' Union and the Moorland Association. At the briefings, landowners and land managers receive free advice on liabilities, the restrictions system and land management practice.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost was of the consultation, mapping and appeals and other associated costs of the implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. [183128]

Alun Michael: Defra is funding the Countryside Agency, National Park Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to implement Part I of the Act. To the end of May 2004 the Countryside Agency had spent £30.19 million. The Agency expects to spend a further £14.9 million in the current financial year. National Park Authorities have been allocated an additional £4.725 million since 2002–03, including £1.85 million for the current financial year. The Planning Inspectorate has received £2.15 million over the last three financial years to deal with appeals against the inclusion of land on provisional maps and restriction appeals. It expects to spend no more than £2 million in the current financial year. Local authorities have been funded to establish local access forums under Part V of the Act.

Further, I have announced funding of £2 million for 2004–05 towards an access management grant scheme to support local authorities in implementing the new right of access. The scheme runs to the end of March 2005 and I will be considering whether to extend it in the light of its success this year and in the context of Defra's future spending priorities.

Egg Production

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many eggs were produced in England, broken down by *(a)* type and *(b)* production method in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [183004]

Alun Michael: The following table provides a breakdown of UK egg production by use, grade and production method. In order to preserve the confidentiality of survey respondents this information is not separately available at the England level.

UK hen eggs

(million dozen)

	1994	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Total production	884	873	877	902	904	850	855	917	972	992
of which:										
For human consumption	787	774	775	794	792	743	747	806	858	879
For hatching	85	87	91	95	96	93	95	96	95	97
Hatching for export	3	4	3	4	7	5	5	6	10	7
Waste	9	9	8	8	9	8	9	9	9	9
Human consumption by grade										
Very large	[1]	[1]	52	39	36	36	38	43	41	46
Large	[1]	[1]	283	276	293	285	290	320	328	363
Medium	[1]	[1]	304	325	318	293	281	305	318	319
Small	[1]	[1]	49	51	41	36	36	39	42	37
Seconds	[1]	[1]	54	63	64	59	66	68	68	68
Ungraded (farmhouse consumption and direct from producer to egg processor)	[1]	[1]	34	40	39	35	34	31	62	45
Human consumption by production method										
Laying cages	673	668	664	667	644	578	556	578	595	606
Free range	84	83	88	102	115	122	148	184	210	220
Barn	30	23	23	26	33	43	44	44	53	53

[1] Not available.

It should be noted that the surveys used to generate these statistics are currently undergoing a methodological review and the estimates for more recent years are liable to amendment as a direct result of any findings.

EU Environment Council

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the matters *(a)* discussed and *(b)* decided at the European Environment Ministers Council on 28 and 29 June; what votes were taken; how the UK voted in each case; and if she will place in the Library copies of papers (i) tabled by the UK and (ii) which have implications for United Kingdom policies. [181964]

Mr. Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome was of the Environment Council on 28 to 29 June; what the Government's stance was on the issues discussed, including its voting record; and if she will make a statement. [181878]

Mr. Morley: I attended the Environment Council on 28 June 2004, together with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Council reached political agreement on two proposals. The first was an amendment to the Directive concerning the sulphur content of marine fuels, which is intended to lead to a significant reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions from ships operating within member states' waters. The text as adopted would fulfil the obligations of the UK (and other member states) under the recently ratified International Maritime Organisation rules relating to sulphur oxide emission control areas and also includes provision for the use of approved abatement technologies as an alternative to low-sulphur fuel. The proposal was adopted by qualified majority, with UK support.

Council also reached political agreement on a revised bathing water directive, with unanimous support. The proposal sets standards for the monitoring and classification of bathing waters. It incorporates a new category of bathing water ('satisfactory/acceptable'), and flexible management arrangements including discounting of samples taken during short-term contamination incidents, within certain limits.

We also discussed a proposed regulation on shipments of waste. Agreement was not reached at this Council, because one member state maintained a general scrutiny reserve, and unanimity was required in the face of a Commission disagreement as Council decided to change the proposed legal base to Article 175. The proposal updates an existing Regulation to reflect revisions to the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and their disposal and the relevant OECD decision. Twenty-four member states, including the UK, were able to support the proposal. The dossier will be considered further in COREPER with a view to adoption at a future Council. Council adopted Conclusions relating to the Commission communication "Towards a thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste". These were wide-ranging, and included encouragement to the Commission to develop this thematic strategy in tandem with its work on the use of natural resources and integrated product policy.

We held a policy debate on various aspects of the proposed Regulation on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH). As requested by the Presidency, the UK made only a short intervention, providing further comments in a written paper, a copy of which will be placed in the Library. The Presidency drew the conclusion that work should continue in the ad hoc working group.

Council was asked to agree a decision concerning the placing on the market of a maize product (Zea mays L. line NK603), genetically modified for glyphosate intolerance. The UK supported the Decision, but no

qualified majority was attained to either support or reject the proposal. In the absence of a Council decision, the Commission will be able to adopt its proposal.

Council was briefed by the Presidency on the outcome of conferences on biodiversity held in Killarney and Malahide, and a further set of Conclusions was adopted on halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The UK was among a group of member states that successfully pressed for additional points on illegal logging, emphasising the need for urgent action to eliminate imports of illegally harvested timber as a contribution to halting biodiversity loss. Council also discussed the importance of effective financial arrangements to support the Natura 2000 network as an important contribution towards achieving global and regional biodiversity protection. We looked forward to debating the Commission's expected communication on financing Natura 2000.

A further policy debate was held, on the proposed Directive on managing waste from the extractive industries. Again, the UK provided a written submission, a copy of which will be placed in the Library.

A number of short information points were raised under Any Other Business. There was also an appeal by Germany, supported by several others, for an early proposal for new Euro V standards with a view to reducing particulate emissions from diesel cars.

Rats

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information she collects in respect of moneys expended by sewerage undertakers to control rat populations; and what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of sewerage undertakers in regard to control of such populations. [182858]

Mr. Morley: The Department does not collect information on moneys expended by sewerage undertakers to control rat populations.

Late last year, my Department sought the views of all chief executives of local authorities in England and Wales on how well the liaison arrangements between water companies and local authorities are working in relation to sewer baiting for rats. The level of response was disappointing. The results of that review and a more recent and comprehensive report by the CSL (Central Scientific Laboratory) on the presence of rodents in domestic dwellings will be considered by the Rats in Sewers Working Group.

Red Squirrels

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the change in the red squirrel population over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [153746]

Mr. Bradshaw: No assessment has been made in the changes to red squirrel population over the last five years. However, within England, significant populations of the red squirrel are still found in the north-west and north-east, the Isle of Wight and the islands in Poole Harbour. The population in Thetford Forest remains in a precarious position, with no recent sightings there.

Little can be said about changes in numbers at any of these sites as the species is very difficult and costly to monitor at this level of detail. We hope that the recently-formed Tracking Mammals Partnership will make some progress with developing integrated monitoring methods for this challenging species.

On the positive side, the red squirrel seems to have made some small gains in the Yorkshire Dales, where it has been able to expand into plantations that are now maturing and producing good crops of the pine cones that it needs.

On the negative side, the grey squirrel continues to expand its range and threaten red squirrel populations, with the species now appearing in the west of Northumberland, where it is moving up the Tyne valley, and more northern parts of Cumbria, where it has moved north of Thirlmere and is now appearing around Keswick.

The continuing expansion of the grey squirrel is to be expected and red squirrel conservation is focused on limiting that expansion in areas where the two species overlap. Some significant progress has been made in developing more effective and targeted ways of defending healthy populations of red squirrels against replacement by the grey squirrel.

The UK red squirrel Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group has identified those areas of the UK where action to maintain red squirrels is most likely to be effective in the long term. In northern England, these priorities have now been translated into management plans for key forest areas, where we believe a combination of large-scale habitat management in forests and buffer areas allied to surveillance and targeted grey squirrel control gives the red squirrel the best chance of survival.

These plans will form the basis of a bid for Heritage Lottery funding within the next few months by a consortium of government agencies, wildlife trusts and private landowners.

Elsewhere in England, a red squirrel strategy for the Isle of Wight has recently been published. Work on improving the island's woodlands and hedgerows for the red squirrel has been continuing, funded by the Forestry Commission and the HLF, and a recent survey found signs of red squirrels in 86 per cent. of the woodlands, an improvement over the 71 per cent. found in 1996–97. The populations on the islands in Poole Harbour (Brownsea, Furzey) are also important and a joint management plan to ensure their survival here will soon be developed.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new technology has been introduced by the Rural Payments Agency since its formation. [182917]

Alun Michael: The following new technology has been introduced by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) since its formation in October 2001.

1. Applications

A new integrated Human Resources and Finance system using the Oracle E-Business Suite was introduced in October 2003 and subsequently upgraded to the latest versions of the Oracle applications and database in February 2004.

Online internet based systems have been implemented for the electronic transfer of information from abattoirs directly into RPA systems and electronic links between HM Customs and Excise have been established for exchange of import and export licence data.

The e-IACS system was enhanced to provide customers with an off-line web based solution to submit Integrated Administration Control Systems (IACS) claim forms electronically. This went live in March 2003.

In June 2003 an improved Intranet system was introduced together with devolved content management facilities supported by a Knowledge Management network of staff throughout RPA. This has quickly become a key business tool throughout RPA.

Combined Bovine Risk Assessment was introduced in August 2002 allowing Inspectors to use laptops on customer premises to complete bovine inspections.

Other specialist corporate systems have been introduced, specifically an intelligence support systems for the RPA Counter Fraud and Compliance Unit based on Memex software and a case management system for RPA's Internal Audit group based on Galilio software—both introduced during 2003.

2. Infrastructure

A secondary data centre has been established to provide disaster recovery (DR) protection. New high end servers use modern technology with centralised data storage and dedicated high speed telecommunications links between the primary and DR sites.

Enterprise disk storage array systems have been introduced for economies of scale and administrative efficiency. These provide approximately 20 terabytes of disk space at each of the data centres.

Over 3,000 new and upgraded desktop computers have been deployed throughout the RPA offices with access to centrally managed Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Servers supporting Microsoft Exchange for email.

A new communications network service has been installed linking the five main RPA sites and providing flexible bandwidth on demand to support data and telephone communications.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business Link

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small businesses have been helped by Business Link in *(a)* Bath and North East Somerset and *(b)* Wansdyke constituency in each year since 2001. [182494]

Nigel Griffiths: Since 2001 business support to enterprises in Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) and Wansdyke constituency has been provided by Business West, one of a national network of 45 Business Link Operators.

The year on year breakdown is made up of enterprises unique to that year, as follows:

	BANES	*Wansdyke*
2001	1,127	352
2002	1,548	486
2003	1,801	585
2004 (January to June)	1,184	363

Consumer Protection (Budget Airlines)

Mr. Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations she has received from representatives of independent tour operators about the financial protection for consumers who book accommodation through websites related to budget airlines; and if she will make a statement. [183613]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Officials and I, have received several representations from the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), from AITO members, and from the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) representing, among others, their independent tour operator members. AITO and ABTA joined me at a meeting I held with representatives from the package travel industry in March at which extending financial protection for holidaymakers and travellers was discussed. Both organisations are in frequent contact and attend regular meetings with officials on this and other matters. I am, therefore, very aware of AITO and ABTA members' views on this issue as we await the Civil Aviation Authority's final recommendations to Government on extending protection.

Post Office

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many *(a)* post offices and *(b)* sub-post offices in London have been (i) closed and (ii) subject to formal consultation prior to closure since 31 March; [182351]

(2) how many post offices and sub-post offices in London subject to formal consultation pending closure since 31 March have subsequently been reprieved. [182353]

Mr. Timms: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd, and I have therefore asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Office Urban Reinvention Programme

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Business Transaction Hours (BTH) were allocated to individual post offices which have closed under the Urban Reinvention programme in the Wakefield area, broken down by post office; and how many BTHs have been allocated to each post office receiving the business from closed post offices. [183015]

Mr. Timms: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. and I have therefore asked the Chief Executive to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Statutory Paternity Pay

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 400W, on statutory paternity pay, if she will place the information her Department receives in the Library; [183076]

(2) if she will place in the Library the initial information on the take-up of statutory paternity pay that the Inland Revenue has provided to other Government Departments. [183075]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* The information will be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Working Time Masterclasses

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funds she has allocated to the nine masterclasses to reduce the working time of employees organised by her Department. [183770]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* A strategic partnership project on long hours working has been set up with the CBI and TUC to identify practical ways of implementing change management practices in the workplace. This is to help those organisations who are looking for ways to maximise or maintain productivity levels while moving away from routinely relying on employees working long hours.

A series of nine masterclasses will be held at various regional locations between July 2004 and March 2005. 'Business champions' who have been successful at managing such change will share their learning outcomes with small groups of relevant organisations, promoting discussion and the formation of action plans. There will be no charge to participants. Each of the case studies will be written into a final report as a way of disseminating the project's outputs to a wider audience.

The EOC is managing the project, and have a budget of approximately £70,000 from the DTI's strategic partnership initiative.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

European Constitutional Treaty

Mr. Hood: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will list the measures adopted under Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community within his Department's areas of responsibility which the UK has notified its intention to participate in. [183434]

Mr. Leslie: The measures adopted under Title IV which fall within the responsibility of my Department which the UK has notified its intention to participate in are:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000 of 29 May 2000 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgements in matrimonial matters and in matters of parental responsibility for children of both spouses.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1346/2000 of 29 May 2000 on insolvency proceedings.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1348/2000 of 29 May 2000 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters.

Council Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 of 22 December 2000 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1206/2001 of 28 May 2001 on co-operation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil and commercial matters.

Council Regulation (EC) No 2001/470/EC of 28 May 2001 establishing a European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters.

Council Regulation (EC) No 743/2002 of 25 April 2002 establishing a general Community framework of activities to facilitate the implementation of judicial co-operation in civil matters.

Council Regulation (EC) No 2002/8/EC of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes.

Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgements in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility , repealing Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000.

Regulation (EC) No 805/2004 if the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 creating a European Enforcement Order for uncontested claims.

Legal Aid

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Department's policy is on the granting of legal aid to those who have dismissed their legal team. [183709]

Mr. Leslie: Any grant of legal aid, whether civil or criminal, is made to an individual's solicitor or solicitors' firm and, as appropriate, assigned counsel. Where an individual dismisses their legal team, and assigns a new legal team, they must re-apply for legal aid (either through the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission for civil legal aid, or through the court for criminal legal aid).

If the individual does not assign a new legal team, legal aid cannot be granted.

Neighbourly Quarrels

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what record is kept by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission of regular users of the scheme in pursuing neighbourly quarrels. [183710]

Mr. Leslie: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission does not keep any specific record of regular users of the civil legal aid scheme in pursuing disputes between neighbours.

Privy Council (Accounts)

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs who the Finance Director for the Privy Council is; what accountancy

qualifications the Director holds; and in which of the ast five years there has been a qualified opinion on *(a)* the resource accounts and *(b)* other accounts of the Privy Council. [183580]

Mr. Leslie: The Finance Director is the Deputy Clerk of the Privy Council, who is a Chartered Secretary. In view of the very small size of the Department it has been agreed with the Treasury and the National Audit Office that specialist accountancy advice is provided through a consultancy arrangement with a qualified accountant. The Department's resource accounts were qualified in 2002–03 owing to a very small amount of resource expenditure (£9,000) in excess of voted provision. The excess expenditure was due to factors outside the Department's control, which are explained in the resource accounts for that year.

Voting Age

Brian Cotter: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if the Government will bring forward proposals to enfranchise 16 and 17-year-olds in the near future. [183916]

Mr. Leslie: The Government are currently considering the independent Electoral Commission's 'Age of electoral majority' report, which makes recommendations on the minimum age of voting and candidacy in elections.

The Government will not rush their consideration of the recommendations, given the importance of the issues at hand.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Accountancy Practice

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who the Finance Director of the Department is; what accountancy qualifications the Director holds; and on how many occasions there has been a qualified opinion on *(a)* the resource accounts and *(b)* other accounts of the Department in the last five years. [183429]

Mr. Caborn: The designated Finance Director in DCMS is Nicholas Kroll. Mr. Kroll is the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Permanent Secretary. His responsibilities also include human resources, accommodation, information technology and economic, statistical and other analytical services. Mr. Kroll has no accounting qualifications; however, he is supported by a Head of Accounting Profession and nine other accountants within the Department's Finance and Planning Division.

Since 1999–2000, the DCMS's appropriation and resource accounts have been qualified on one occasion only, in 2001–02. This was a technical qualification of the resource accounts arising out of the timing of the initiation and authorisation at the end of March 2002 of cash payments for payment in April 2002, which resulted in the Department exceeding its net cash requirement. The Department remained within approved resource limits during the same accounting period.

Information for 2003–04 is not yet available as the audit of the 2003–04 resource accounts has only recently begun.

Edgeworth Cricket Club

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the schemes in the North West region, approved by Sport England, which are now classed as deferred; and when she expects funding to be available for the new clubhouse and pavilion for the Edgeworth Cricket Club. [184194]

Mr. Caborn: The following 12 projects in the North West region were deferred during Sport England's stocktake of its Lottery-funded programmes:

Applicant	*Project*
Astley Sports College	Four-court sports hall
Buersil Park Bowling Club	Rebuilding pavilion
Carlisle Rugby Union Club	Clubhouse extension, all weather training pitch and floodlights
Community TOP Ltd	Trampolining centre
Edgeworth Cricket Club	New pavilion
Egremont Rugby Union Club	New pavilion and multi-use games area
Fylde Borough Council	Skate park
Liverpool Sailing Club	New clubhouse
New Brighton Cricket Club	New practice facilities
Rochdale Judo Club	Extension of facilities
Silverdale Cricket Club	New pavilion
Waterloo Judo Club	New clubhouse

Of these, Silverdale Cricket Club has since formally withdrawn its application having secured funding elsewhere.

The remaining 11 deferred projects, including Edgeworth Cricket Club, will be considered by the newly established North West Regional Sports Board in September 2004.

National Foundation for Sport

Ms Shipley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings she has had with the food and drink industry in relation to plans for a national foundation for sport. [183589]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had *(a)* no correspondence and *(b)* no meetings with the food and drink industry, in relation to plans for a National Sports Foundation.

I refer my hon. Friend to the Spending Review Statement given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 12 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1129–155, announcing that to ensure a better co-ordination of national sports effort and resources, Patrick Carter, Chairman of Sport England, will report on the proposal to involve private and public sectors in a new National Sports Foundation.

Princess Diana Memorial Fountain

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which members of the Government attended the opening of the Princess Diana memorial fountain. [183567]

Tessa Jowell: In addition to myself, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Minister for Scotland and the First Minister for Wales attended the opening ceremony.

Royal Parks Agency

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were employed in the Royal Parks Agency *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available, broken down by job title; if she will list the job functions performed by those holding each job title; and for how many the primary function was (i) human resource or personnel functions, (ii) finance and accounting functions, (iii) information technology functions and (iv) other support, back office or administrative functions *(A)* in 1997 and *(B)* at the latest date for which information is available. [183457]

Mr. Caborn: The average number of full-time equivalent staff employed by The Royal Parks Agency in 1997–98 was 236, and as at 1 July 2004 it was 225.

Details of job titles and job functions are not readily available.

Listed in the following table are the numbers of staff by function:

	Number of Staff	
	1997–98	*2004*
(i) human resource or personnel functions	4	5
(ii) finance and accounting functions	5	6
(iii) information technology functions	2	3
(iv) other support, back office or administrative functions	14	10

School Sport

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how her Department is working with local authorities to improve school sport. [183317]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are implementing the Game Plan (2002) recommendation to improve the delivery of sport and physical activity through local government. We are working closely with partners at Sport England, the Local Government Association, the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association, the Audit Commission and others to: improve local partnerships; include sport and physical activity in Local Public Service Agreements; develop an Excellence Framework for Sport and Recreation; develop strategies for improvement planning and develop and train key workers in sport. Sport in schools, and links between schools and communities, will benefit from this work.

The Department for Education and Skills continues to work with local education authorities to ensure a strategic roll-out of the network of school sport partnerships (50 per cent. coverage from September).

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to improve school sports facilities. [183316]

Mr. Caborn: Over £850 million is available for the New Opportunities for PE and Sport, the Space for Sport and the Arts, the Green Spaces, and the Sporting Playgrounds programmes. All of these programmes can be used to improve school sports and physical activity facilities.

Second World War (60th Anniversary)

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Lottery funding will be used to link Second World War 60th anniversary activities with youth educational initiatives. [183436]

Estelle Morris: National Lottery funding has been made available through the Veterans Reunited initiative to ensure that all generations of UK residents can commemorate the momentous events that led to the end of the Second World War. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State first announced our intention to provide Lottery support in this area last October.

The Veterans Reunited initiative has three strands, one of which, "Their Past Your Future", is a £10 million, two-year education scheme funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Imperial War Museum (IWM) in partnership with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Scottish Museums Council, National Library of Wales, Northern Ireland Museums Council and local education authorities UK wide.

"Their Past Your Future" concentrates on the participation of schools and young people in understanding events of the Second World War; it is designed to raise children's awareness of issues of remembrance, conflict, freedom, commemoration and reconciliation as well as informing them about historical aspects of the war. The IWM project, receiving £4 million from the Big Lottery Fund, consists of an educational website, a series of competitions for schools to win overseas commemorative visits, a travelling exhibition, and a Partnerships Scheme linking children to armed service and civilian veterans of the war. Funding of £2.3 million has also been offered to all UK local authorities to support locally organised events and activities or overseas trips.

The UK museums, libraries and archives sector will also receive £3 million to develop programmes of events regionally and locally and to support the IWM travelling exhibitions.

The other two strands of the Veterans Reunited initiative are Heroes Return (funding for veterans to return to an area of overseas service) and Home Front Recall (funding for UK based events and activities to mark the end of the Second World War).

Tourism

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited London from Belgium since 1997. [183571]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to London by residents of Belgium, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to London by residents of Belgium

	Number (Thousand)[1]
1997	420
1998	366
1999	357
2000	312
2001	302
2002	289
2003	306

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the East of England since 1997 from *(a)* the USA, *(b)* Belgium and *(c)* China. [183570]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to the East of England by residents of the relevant countries, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to the East of England by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
USA	222	275	222	252	211	208	214
Belgium	47	51	50	61	39	57	43
China	4	1	3	3	5	4	5

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the North West since 1997 from *(a)* Japan, *(b)* Sydney, *(c)* the USA and *(d)* Belgium. [183572]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The number of visits to the North West by residents of the relevant countries, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table. Figures are only available by country of residence which means that no figures are available for visits from Sydney.

Visits to the North West by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Japan	29	31	30	36	18	20	19
USA	240	280	263	238	192	209	222
Belgium	31	27	27	50	42	41	58

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the North East since 1997 from *(a)* China, *(b)* Japan, *(c)* Korea, *(d)* Taiwan, *(e)* Australia, *(f)* the USA and *(g)* Belgium. [183573]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to the North East by residents of the relevant countries, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to the North East by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
China	1	1	[2]—	1	1	2	2
Japan	3	4	3	5	4	3	4
South Korea	1	0	0	1	[2]—	2	2
Taiwan	2	1	1	3	1	3	4

Visits to the North East by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Australia	23	17	34	17	22	22	21
USA	54	52	45	45	54	52	43
Belgium	22	7	24	11	13	24	14

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.
[2] Indicates that the sample did not include any visitors to the North East from the relevant nationality.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the South East since 1997 from *(a)* Belgium, *(b)* the USA, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* China, *(e)* Korea, *(f)* Japan and *(g)* Australia. [183574]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to the South East by residents of the relevant countries, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to the South East[1] *by year*

Thousand[2]

Country of residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Belgium	179	147	168	115	147	153	116
USA	622	709	640	679	592	561	500
Germany	515	498	526	415	395	462	433
China	4	9	10	6	8	7	11
South Korea	10	6	5	7	6	9	7
Japan	62	62	52	62	37	42	31
Australia	150	149	147	163	158	140	146

[1] The Government Office Region of the South East excludes London.
[2] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the South West since 1997 from *(a)* Japan and *(b)* the USA. [183575]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to the South West by residents of Japan and the USA, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to the South West by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Japan	36	34	31	40	20	24	15
USA	343	385	350	362	287	277	279

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited Yorkshire since 1997 from *(a)* Japan and *(b)* China. [183576]

Mr. Caborn: Figures are available for the number of visits to the Government Office Region of Yorkshire and Humberside. The number of visits to this region by residents of Japan and China, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to Yorkshire and Humberside by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Japan	14	18	11	15	8	8	7
China	2	1	2	3	2	4	5

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

SCOTLAND

Empty Houses

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for how many empty houses his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [182238]

Mrs. McGuire: The Scotland Office is not responsible for any empty houses.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list for each year since the Office's creation the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181867]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not recorded separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

South-east Asia

7. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what help he plans to reduce the number of women who die in pregnancy or childbirth in south-east Asia. [183724]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: Maternal mortality is a major health issue in south-east Asia and a key priority for DFID. We are for example working in Indonesia with UNICEF to expand their maternal health programme. In Cambodia we are working with the Government, the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank to develop a programme of support to the health sector, a key aspect of which is to address maternal health issues.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

8. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the recently published sexual and reproductive health position paper. [183725]

Hilary Benn: Sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to human development and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Our position paper commits us to action and investment to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, and highlights the crucial links between sexual and reproductive health and rights and efforts to prevent HIV and AIDS. Sexual and reproductive health services are a cornerstone of efforts to prevent HIV infection and this will be reflected in the forthcoming HIV and AIDS strategy. They are also fundamental to enabling women and men to exercise informed choice in matters of childbearing.

Middle East

9. **David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of prospects for economic development in Palestine. [183726]

Hilary Benn: The Palestinian economy is in deep crisis. This has been caused by the restrictions on the movement of Palestinian people and goods which the Government of Israel sees as an essential security procedure. The Israeli disengagement plan and additional donor funds will not alone improve the Palestinian economy. It must be accompanied by major change in the closure regime, and a reinvigorated programme of Palestinian reform.

13. **Mr. Best:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development what contribution his Department is making to tackling homelessness in Gaza. [183730]

Hilary Benn: DFID recently announced an additional contribution of £2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) emergency programmes in Gaza. This will contribute to temporary housing, emergency food and medical care, cash assistance, house repairs and new houses in Rafah. The UK has contributed £32.7 million to UNRWA's emergency appeals to since the start of the Intifada. The Government have urged the Israeli Government in future operations to respect people's homes and take full account of international humanitarian law.

HIV/AIDS

10. **Mr. Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development what support the Government can give to tackle HIV/AIDS in Caribbean countries. [183727]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: DFID has recently agreed a £2.1 million programme of assistance to the Caribbean to firstly support the Pan Caribbean Partnership on HIV/AIDS. Secondly to support the joint programme of six Eastern Caribbean states to assist in for example training clinical care teams and the bulk purchase of anti retro viral medicines and testing kits. And third support to the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) to organise a high level Forum in November 2004 that will consider how to reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

The UK Government also makes substantial contributions to the programmes of the European Commission, the World Bank and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, all of whom are currently supporting HIV/AIDS programmes in the Caribbean.

15. **Mr. Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development what action the Government are taking with regard to HIV prevention in the developing world. [183732]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The UK is the second biggest bilateral donor on AIDS. It is directly active on AIDS in 39 countries. We support the national AIDS strategies of developing country partners, involving all relevant parts of government. DFID supports a number of multilateral institutions including WHO, UNAIDS and UNFPA and was a prime mover in setting up the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), committing US $280 million over seven years.

Colombia

11. **Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development how much money was spent on development and humanitarian projects in Colombia in each of the last five years. [183728]

Mr. Gareth Thomas: The British Government has spent over £8.23 million on development and humanitarian assistance in Colombia over the last five years, including over £5.28 million spent by DFID. In 1999–2000 total HMG spend was £2.19 million (£1.54 of which from DFID); in 2000–01 £2.25 million (£1.73 million from DFID); in 2001–02 £1.48 million (£934,000 from DFID); in 2002–03 £1.83 million (£600,000 from DFID); and in 2003–04 £832,000 (£485,000 from DFID).

DFID also contributes to Colombia through its 18 per cent. of European Commission (EC) development assistance. The EC has spent over £67.82 million[1] on development and humanitarian assistance in Colombia over the last five years. This amount includes a share of over £12.20 million from DFID.

Additionally, DFID contributes to development in Colombia through its share of multilateral expenditure. The UK's share of spending in Colombia by multilateral organisations is estimated to be £1.25 million in 1997; £2.82 million in 1998; £1.23 million in 1999; £1.54 million in 2000; and £2.81 million in 2001.

[1] Exchange rate used: 1 = Euros 1.4859

Sudan

12. **Mr. Savidge:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development if he will make a statement on the situation in Darfur. [183729]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government are deeply concerned about the situation in Darfur. Humanitarian requirements in all sectors (food, water, shelter) are enormous. Civilian protection is also a major concern, with reports of systematic attacks on civilians. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report has identified disturbing patterns of human rights violations. DFID, with our EU partners, have made clear that all alleged attacks should be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

DFID is in almost daily contact with the Government of Sudan and the Darfur groups, both through our embassy in Khartoum and the joint DFID/FCO Sudan Unit in London. I visited Sudan, including Darfur, on 6–8 June. I visited three displaced persons camps there, and met with NGOs and UN agencies on the ground. Following concerted pressure from the UK Government, in conjunction with others, we have secured commitments from the Sudanese Government on access to humanitarian supplies and the disarming of militias.

The UK is the second largest bilateral donor in Darfur, next to the US. Since September 2003, DFID has allocated £62.5 million to the humanitarian response to the crisis, which we are committing to UN agencies, the Red Cross and non-governmental organisations. UK funding has contributed to provision of water and sanitation, food, nutrition and health services for the displaced population and to their host communities in Darfur and Eastern Chad. DFID is also actively involved in urging the EU and other organisations to increase their funding.

In terms of the security situation and civilian protection, our priority remains on the rapid deployment of the African Union (AU)-led Ceasefire Monitoring Mission. Experience from elsewhere in Sudan shows that the deployment of ceasefire monitors can have a positive effect on the security situation and the protection of civilians. Following agreement of the AU's plan on 28 May, the UK immediately committed £2 million to enable swift deployment and we are working to provide a UK monitor to the mission.

Ultimately this crisis requires a political solution. The framework agreement reached in Naivasha in June of this year lays the groundwork for a comprehensive peace in Sudan. We continue to encourage the Government and the rebel groups in Darfur to meet and discuss a political solution.

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the use of satellites over Sudan. [183154]

Hilary Benn: DFID is very concerned about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. As with all humanitarian emergencies, the international community is looking at the different technologies that can assist our response. This includes the use of satellites for telecommunications and satellite imagery.

Yemen

14. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State, Department for International Development what plans he has to visit Yemen to discuss bilateral aid. [183731]

Hilary Benn: I have no plans at present to visit Yemen. Yemen is the only low-income country in the region, and DFID plans to increase the size of our annual programme there from around £6 million this year to around £10 million next year. The main focus of our work is to support the Government's poverty reduction strategy programme, and DFID officials will be participating, along with the World Bank and other donors, in a progress review with the Government of Yemen in September.

The EC spends around £10 million a year in Yemen. Around £1.8 million of this is derived from funds attributed to DFID. The programme helps increase food security, improve access to reproductive health services, strengthen democratic processes, and support the role of civil society.

Angola

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of progress with the removal of land mines in Angola. [183689]

Hilary Benn: DFID's Explosive Ordnance and Demining Adviser, together with the DFID Mines Programme Officer, will be visiting Angola 21—31 July to carry out an assessment of mines and unexploded ordnance in Angola and to identify possible areas for future support. The mission will build upon the assessments conducted by UNDP and the Angolan National Inter-sectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH). We are currently providing assistance totalling £331,325 to the HALO Trust for road clearance in Cuando Cubango Province and £100,000 to Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for the same activity in Moxico Province. Additionally, we have provided support to the United Nations Development Programme project to strengthen the National Mine Co-ordination Office in Angola (US$ 300,000 in 2003–2004.)

We are also giving urgent consideration to requests to assist in specific road de-mining activities near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to aid the return of refugees.

Departmental Accountancy Practice

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who the Finance Director of the Department is; what accountancy qualifications the Director holds; and on how many occasions there has been a qualified opinion on *(a)* the resource accounts and *(b)* other accounts of the Department in the last five years. [183421]

Hilary Benn: The Director of Finance and Corporate Performance at DFID is Richard Calvert, who is not a qualified accountant. There have been no occasions on which DFID's accounts have been qualified in the last five years.

Parliamentary Questions

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day questions his Department received in (i) the 2002–03 session and (ii) this session. [182719]

Hilary Benn: During the Parliamentary session of 2002–03, the Department for International Development (DFID) received a total of 1942 Ordinary Commons Written questions and a total of 253 Named Day Written questions.

So far, for the Parliamentary session for 2003–04, DFID has received a total of 1,641 Ordinary Written questions and a total of 75 Named Day questions.

Iraq

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the reconstruction of Iraq. [183835]

Hilary Benn: Approximately US $32 billion in grants and soft loans were pledged for the reconstruction of Iraq at the Madrid Donors' Conference in October last year. DFID has committed over £287 million for humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance to Iraq since March 2003, of which £70 million has been channelled through the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI).

The Iraqi Interim Government (IIG) is now leading the reconstruction effort in Iraq. DFID is working to support the new Iraqi Government in this process. At the national level, our Emergency Public Administration Programme is providing technical advice and training focused on the key ministries for taking forward reconstruction: Finance, Planning and Development Co-operation and Municipalities and Public Works. This support includes advice on the establishment of the new Prime Minister's Office. In the South we are planning major capacity building support to the southern governorates (£20 million over two years) to enable the effective management of the reconstruction effort and to promote economic development. Other major national projects include police sector support, civil society capacity building, promoting political participation, and supporting the development of the media.

Further details about our programme in Iraq over the next two years are set out in our Interim Country Assistance Plan, which has been placed in the House of Commons Library and can be found on the DFID website:
www.dfid.gov.uk

Zambia

Jane Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the progress of debt relief for Zambia. [183822]

Hilary Benn: Zambia reached Decision Point under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in December 2000. Zambia's external debt service has averaged US$122 million per year in the three years since Decision Point. This compares with external debt service of US$570 million per year scheduled in the absence of debt relief.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has stated its objective of reaching HIPC Completion Point at the earliest opportunity. The Department for International Development (DFID) supports GRZ in this objective. The recent approval of a new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility with the International Monetary Fund is a major milestone towards this. DFID is also engaging in dialogue with GRZ and other donors to ensure that development assistance is effectively delivered in support of GRZ's Poverty Reduction Strategy after Completion Point.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Bottled Drinks

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if (1) he will take steps to require the producers of bottled drinks intended for

consumption from the bottle in licensed premises and elsewhere to use plastic or non-breakable containers, [181293]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of injuries caused by glasses and glass bottles in *(a)* licensed premises and *(b)* in the vicinity of licensed premises in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement, [181294]

(3) if he will make representations to the licensed trade, particularly the large pub chains, to transfer from breakable glasses to plastic, in order to reduce incidents involving injury to customers. [182485]

Ms Blears: The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy published on 15 March proposes that the use of safer forms of glass could be included in the voluntary social responsibility schemes for industry. We are taking this forward in discussions with the industry. We are concerned about injuries caused by glass as a result of antisocial behaviour associated with excessive drinking. Figures are not available on the number of injuries caused by glass bottles.

Drugs Misuse (Warrington, North)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on tackling drugs misuse in Warrington, North in each year since 1997. [182775]

Caroline Flint: Following the launch of the National Drug Strategy in 1998 (Revised 2002) ring fenced investment in action to tackle drugs has increased significantly. Central drug specific allocations are supplemented by local mainstream and charitable funding. Information related to mainstream and charitable funding would only be available at local level. It would incur a disproportionate cost in staff time to gather figures for each year and they would be difficult to verify.

Breakdown of financial allocation to local constituencies is not available in the form requested as funding is allocated to Drug Action Team (DAT) areas. In this case Warrington DAT which covers Warrington, North and Warrington, South.

The period for 1997–98 is prior to the formation of the National Drug Strategy hence there is no locally held information on funding available for that financial year.

In 2003–04 the total drugs allocation for Warrington DAT was £938,628. In order to ensure consistency figures supplied are based on funding streams associated with the National Drug Strategy that are readily verifiable. These funding streams are specifically targeted at tackling the harm caused to individuals, families and communities by the misuse of drugs. Other mainstream funding is made available at a local level. This varies and both in amount and origin and as a result it is not possible to provide robust financial information.

2003–2004

	£
Partnership capacity	68,060
Treatment pooled budget	627,000
Through care after care pump priming	35,000
Building safer communities[1]	208,568
Total	938,628

[1] Contains non drug elements.

Firearms

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms offences, including air weapon offences, were recorded in each police force area in England and Wales in 2002–03. [182361]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* Statistics for the number of non-air weapon offences by police force area were published in January in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/04, Crime in England and Wales 2002/03: Supplementary Volume 1: Homicide and Gun Crime. The equivalent statistics for air weapon offences are not available.

Iraq Refugees

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers from Iraq, having exhausted all domestic remedies, are receiving support on the basis that there is no safe route of return. [173218]

Mr. Browne: Prior to 25 March 2004 Kurds from the Kurdish Autonomous Zone of northern Iraq whose claim for asylum was finally rejected could, on application, be provided with accommodation under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, as amended, because there was no safe route of return available. It is now possible for Iraqis, including Kurds, to return home voluntarily. From 25 March Iraqi Kurds, like other unsuccessful asylum seekers, may be provided with accommodation under section 4 if they are unable to leave immediately due to circumstances entirely beyond their control and are complying with the process for return.

Information on the number of Iraqis provided with accommodation because there was no viable route of return is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service is published quarterly and can be accessed on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mobile Speed Patrols

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces are using LTI 20–20 laser cameras in mobile speed patrols. [183038]

Caroline Flint: This information is not recorded centrally. It is for chief officers of police to decide which speed enforcement devices to purchase from the range that have been type approved and that are commercially available.

Organised Crime White Paper

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the White Paper on organised crime addressing the issue of a unified frontier force will be published. [177927]

Mr. Browne: The White Paper "One Step Ahead—A 21st Century Strategy to Defeat Organised Crime" was published on 29 March 2004. It sets out (Section 3.2) the Government's strategy on developing partnerships within border agencies and a co-ordinated approach to border security.

Prisons

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned on the effects of nutrition as a significant contributory factor in anti-social and criminal behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [183939]

Ms Blears *[holding answer 13 July2004]:* The Home Office has commissioned no research on the effects of nutrition as a contributory factor in antisocial behaviour and criminal behaviour and has no plans to do so.

PRIME MINISTER

Butler Inquiry

Llew Smith: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list each document *(a)* requested by and *(b)* provided to the Butler Inquiry Committee by his Office. [184386]

The Prime Minister: The Government co-operated fully with the Butler Review.

European Constitution

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister what research he commissioned on the impact on the UK of the Supremacy of EU Law clause of the proposed European Union constitution; and if he will make a statement. [184019]

The Prime Minister: The doctrine of primacy of European Union law existed before the UK's accession to the European Community and has applied throughout Britain's membership. It is a principle of the European Community's legal order which is well-established, essential to the effective running of the European Union and beneficial to the UK.

Lisbon Strategy

Mr. Lazarowicz: To ask the Prime Minister what steps he is taking to integrate sustainable development into the Lisbon Strategy agreed at the heads of Government meeting in 2000. [183693]

The Prime Minister: The UK supported the full integration of sustainable development into the Lisbon process. This Government has already made the commitment to setting ourselves on a path to cut carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent. by around 2050. We were also the first EU country to produce a policy framework focused on changing our patterns of consumption and production to make them more sustainable.

In our representations to the high-level group appointed to advise the European Commission, on the mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy, we have called for further action to strengthen the European Union's response to climate change, through the adoption of medium-term and long-term targets. We also called for additional action to promote investment in sustainable consumption and production technologies, through the effective use of Community resources and reform of the state aid guidelines.

We shall continue to seek further opportunities to further enhance the Lisbon strategy in this area.

Lockerbie

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 622W, on Lockerbie, what action he has taken to accelerate a decision on the issues raised on 24 May. [183836]

The Prime Minister: We are currently examining issues raised at the meeting with representatives of the Lockerbie families on 24 May. When this has been completed, I will be writing to the families.

United Nations

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to meet his United Nations Security Council counterparts to discuss reform of the United Nations. [184014]

The Prime Minister: The Government supports reform of the United Nations (UN). My discussions with leaders of other Members of the Security Council regularly cover the need to review how the international community, through the UN, can respond collectively to the problems faced by the modern world. I particularly welcome the UN Secretary-General's decision to set up a High Level Panel to review how the UN can respond more effectively to threats to international peace and security.

The Security Council does not have primary responsibility for reform of the UN system and therefore discussions of these issues also take place with the wider UN membership.

Water Action Plan

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 448W, on the Water Action Plan, what steps are proposed for delivery of the G8 Water Action Plan in those countries which are not committed to prioritising safe water and basic sanitation; and what account was taken of the water sector's needs identified by the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure in allocating funding. [183343]

The Prime Minister: We and other donors regularly press countries to make water and sanitation a high priority. We also work with Governments of developing

countries to assist them through providing advice on planning and budgeting and improving capacity and infrastructure for water and sanitation services.

We also provide support and work closely with development agencies and non-governmental organisations, such as UNICEF and WaterAid. For example, we have provided a £17 million grant to assist WaterAid in providing adequate water services to the poorest people in Bangladesh.

We have examined the findings of the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure and are working with international organisations such as the World Bank to ensure greater investment in the water sector from both private and public sources.

HEALTH

Chest Pain Clinics

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many rapid access chest pain clinics there are in Manchester Central. [182666]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not collected on a constituency basis. However, a rapid access chest clinic is located at Manchester Royal Infirmary, part of the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals National Health Service Trust.

Control and Restraint Measures

Mrs. Helen Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to introduce a five minute limit on control and restraint measures to the NHS; [183185]

(2) what research he has collated on the effects of a five minute limit on control and restraint measures in the NHS. [183186]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Physical restraint should be a last resort to protect the service user and/or others from harm and kept to as short a time as possible. The Mental Health Act code of practice states that any restraint should be used for only as long as is necessary and be sensitive to race and gender issues. Any decisions must be based on the best available evidence.

The National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) has recently issued positive practice standards on the management of violence in in-patient settings and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently consulting on its guidance, "Disturbed (violent) behaviour: the short-term management of disturbed (violent) behaviour in in-patient psychiatric settings". The NICE guidance also has a systematic review of evidence and is scheduled for publication later in the year.

Dental Health (Children)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set by his Department on children's dental health; and what progress has been made in meeting them. [182404]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Seven targets were set in the Department's 1994 oral health strategy.

By 1998:

33 per cent. of adults over 75 should have some natural teeth

10 per cent. of adults over 75 should have more than 20 teeth

75 per cent. of 50-year-olds should have more than 20 natural teeth

50 per cent. of 30-year-olds should have more than 20 natural teeth which are sound and unfilled

the percentage of dentate adults aged over 45-years-old with at least one deep periodontal pocket (greater than 6 millimetres) should be reduced to 10 per cent. and,

By 2003:

on average, 12-year-olds should have no more than one decayed, missing or filled permanent tooth.

70 per cent. of five-year-olds should have no decay experience.

All these targets have been met except the last one. Preliminary findings from the 2003 child dental health survey show that 59 per cent. of five-year-olds in England had no decay experience.

East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Primary Care Trust

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by how much the actual revenue funds received by the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Primary Care Trust in the financial year 2003–04 differed from the allocation determined by the weighted capitation formula. [183614]

Dr. Ladyman: Revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2003–04 to 2005–06 were announced on 12 December 2002.

The revenue allocation to East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT for 2003–04 differed from the target allocation, as defined by the weighted capitation formula, by £7.9 million.

Elective Admissions (Manchester)

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the levels of elective admissions to the NHS in Manchester, Central in the past five years. [182665]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not collected on a constituency basis, but at national health service trust level. Data for NHS trusts is shown in the table.

In-year elective admission episodes for Manchester NHS trusts, 1998–99 to 2002–03

NHS trusts	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	49,071	47,969	46,217	n/a	n/a
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	55,824	58,663

Notes:

n/a—not available.

1. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (that is, the data are ungrossed).

2. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Source:

Hospital episode statistics, Department of Health

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases against his Department, the agencies for which it is responsible and its predecessor organisations have been brought to employment tribunals in each year since 1997 in relation to *(a)* equal pay, *(b)* sex discrimination, *(c)* race discrimination, *(d)* disability discrimination and *(e)* unfair dismissal; how many cost awards were made against (i) respondents and (ii) applicants; and how much has been spent (A) settling and (B) contesting claims. [181471]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of cases that have been brought to employment tribunals against the Department is shown in the table, together with details of the main costs involved. Complexity of cases, rather than volume, determines costs.

	2000-01[1]	*2001-02*[1]	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*[1]
Disability Discrimination	—	—	—	3
Race Discrimination	—	—	—	14
Sex Discrimination	—	—	—	4
Unfair Dismissal	—	—	—	3
Other	—	—	—	3
Total	91	144	207	27
Counsel's fees, which represent the major cost in conducting the litigation (£)	667,756	180,141	165,003	572,437

[1] Financial year 1 April to 31 March

Information prior to 2001 and the information on each category from the financial years 2001–02 to 2000–03 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Falls and Osteoporosis

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts on the integration of falls and osteoporosis services; [183331]

(2) what opportunities there are for primary care trusts to share best practice in the integration of falls and osteoporosis services. [183333]

Dr. Ladyman: The national service framework for older people, published in 2001, contained a service model for an integrated falls service. This covered the make-up of a specialist falls service and appropriate referral points to linked services. Since then, a range of information on service development and good practice has been published and made available through the Department's website. This includes: "How can we help older people not fall again?—implementing the Older People's NSF Falls Standard: Support for commissioning good services" published in September 2003 and "Making the case for investing in falls and fractures prevention: a workbook of ideas", published February 2004. These documents were backed-up with a number of cascade training events for falls co-ordinators and commissioners on the use of the document.

The Department has also worked closely with Help the Aged and provided support and funding for it to publish "Reducing falls risk among older people: examples of falls services across England" in June 2003 and "Managing the risk and effect of falls among older people in care homes" in May 2004.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence was asked to develop clinical guidelines on the prevention of falls, due for publication in September 2004 and linked guidelines on the prevention of osteoporosis due next year.

Support has been provided for local initiatives through the national primary care development team's healthy communities collaborative on falls and the falls collaborative, which have shared their learning and experience more widely through individual contacts, printed material and a national conference held on 3 March 2004.

Health Care Forums

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Healthcare on the decision to cap forum membership at an average of 10 members per forum. [179679]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[pursuant to her reply, 28 June 2004, Official Report, c. 108W]:* I regret that my previous reply was incorrect. It should read as follows:

As an independent organisation, it was not necessary for the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) to formally consult the Department on its decision to limit the number of members of patients' forums. Through regular meetings with the CPPIH, we have been made aware of its decision and future plans.

Hospices

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the running costs of *(a)* children's hospices and *(b)* adult hospices was provided by the Government in each of the last three years. [182596]

Dr. Ladyman: This information is not collected centrally. Funding the services provided by hospices is a matter for negotiation between the hospice concerned and the national health service primary care trusts to which the hospice provides a service. There are no limits to the amount of funding which may be provided; this is for local decision.

The amount of funding going to adult hospices will increase following the additional £50 million per annum allocated for adult specialist palliative care from last year, but full information on how much extra funding has gone to voluntary sector services is not yet known.

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase funding for children's hospices. [182597]

Dr. Ladyman: Government funding for children's hospices in England is available from primary care trusts (PCTs), which are responsible for deciding which health services the local population requires, and ensuring the provision of these services. It is for individual PCTs to decide the level of funding they allocate to children's palliative care services, including services provided by children's hospices. There are no limits to the amount of funding which may be provided; this is for local decision through negotiation between children's hospices and PCTs.

Kidderminster Treatment Centre

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the anticipated start date is for the Kidderminster Treatment Centre contract; for how long it will run; and if he will make it his policy to ensure the contract coincides with the financial year of the local primary care trusts. [182530]

Dr. Ladyman: Negotiations are still under way and therefore it would be premature to announce an intended start date for this contract. We will, however, ensure that extra capacity to treat local patients, either on a permanent or interim basis, is available from October 2004. Subject to successful conclusion of negotiations, the contract would run for five years and the local primary care trusts are aware of their financial commitment for the period of the contract.

North Somerset Primary Care Trust

Brian Cotter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether North Somerset Primary Care Trust is being asked to take debt belonging to the North Bristol Trust; and what action he is taking to ensure that primary care trusts are not forced to take on each other's debt. [183837]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority has not asked local primary care trusts (PCTs) to contribute to the repayment of historic debt incurred by North Bristol National Health Service Trust. The Department agreed in 2003–04 to defer repayment of £90 million of deficits across the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority health economy until 2006–07. This includes deficits incurred by North Bristol NHS Trust.

Local PCTs have been asked to provide non-recurrent support to North Bristol NHS Trust to meet its current operational costs while it continues to deliver further efficiencies to achieve underlying financial balance by 2007–08.

Public Services Funding

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will identify, for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies and task forces for which it is responsible, each funding stream for public services in (i) the Isle of Thanet and (ii) the Canterbury city local authority area. [181731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding streams for health services in the Isle of Thanet and the Canterbury city local authority area are listed as follows:

Revenue funding streams

Unified allocations.

Primary medical services allocations.

Capital funding streams

Operational capital allocations.

Strategic capital allocations.

Central Budgets

Centrally funded initiatives—capital and revenue.

Waiting Times/Lists

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on NHS waiting times for heart surgery in Manchester, Central. [182664]

Miss Melanie Johnson: In June 1998, the earliest data available, 19 people waited between nine and 11 months and 23 people were waiting 12 months or more for heart surgery in the former Manchester health authority area. In March 2004, no patient waited over nine months for heart surgery in the Central Manchester Primary Care Trust area.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes there have been to NHS waiting list times in the last seven years for the residents of Manchester, Central. [182668]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is shown in the table.

Month-end	*Trust*	*Total number of patients waiting for admission*	*Less than 3 months*	*3–5 months*	*6–8 months*
March					
1997	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	12,313	5,778	2,622	1,920
1997	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	2,801	952	728	528
1998	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	12,531	5,813	2,454	1,676
1998	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	3,260	985	908	617
1999	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	11,266	5,654	2,191	1,614
1999	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	2,742	849	753	542
2000	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	11,040	5,026	2,489	1,703
2000	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	2,639	801	687	523

Month-end	Trust	Total number of patients waiting for admission	Less than 3 months	3–5 months	6–8 months
2001	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	10,742	5,056	2,432	1,451
2001	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	2,634	831	603	552
2002	March Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	13,213	6,028	3,333	2,136
2003	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	10,822	5,605	2,832	1,701
2004	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	8,436	6,508	1,928	—

Month-end	Trust	9–11 months	12–14 months	15–17 months	18 plus months
March 1997	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	1,223	616	133	21
1997	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	510	79	4	—
1998	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	1,217	885	486	—
1998	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	666	74	10	—
1999	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	975	622	210	—
1999	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	472	118	8	—
2000	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	1,039	533	250	—
2000	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	370	218	40	—
2001	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	826	606	371	—
2001	Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	373	231	44	—
2002	March Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	1,216	500	—	—
2003	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	684	—	—	—
2004	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—

Source:
Department of Health form KH07 and monthly monitoring.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Affordable Homes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the target for affordable homes in settlements of less than 3,000; and what progress is being made to increase access to lower cost homes in smaller rural settlements. [183823]

Keith Hill: In 2003–04 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister exceeded its target to build 1,600 affordable homes in communities below 3,000 people. We have slightly increased that target to 3,500 new affordable homes in such communities in 2004–05 and 2005–06 and early indications are that this too will be exceeded. From 2006–07 Regional Housing Boards will be invited to propose rural targets relevant to their own regions.

The increased target for 2004–06 includes homes for both rent and sale at below market rates.

Brownfield Sites

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect of delays in the cleaning up of brownfield sites on their use in preference to greenbelt land. [183474]

Keith Hill: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister has made no specific assessment of the kind referred to by the hon. Member for South Holland and the Deepings. The Government are, however, preparing a comprehensive national brownfield strategy which will examine how we can make the best use of brownfield land for the future.

China Taskforce

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his written statement of 18 May 2004,

Official Report, column 45WS, what weight the China Taskforce gives to human rights issues, with particular reference to the occupation of Tibet. [182861]

Phil Hope: The China Taskforce was set up by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister, at the request of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, to make proposals for deepening relations with China in four specific areas: Trade and Industry; Science and Technology; Education; and Sustainable Development and the Environment.

The Government raises Human Rights issues with China on a regular basis. We use the bi-annual UK China Human Rights Dialogue to raise our concerns in detail, and also raise issues through ministerial contacts, public statements and EU mechanisms.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what has been the total floor space area of buildings owned or leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 1997. [182901]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was established in May 2002. The total floor space area of buildings owned or leased in each year since that date is as follows:

net internal area m²

	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (including GOs)	*ODPM agencies*
2002–03	156,425	72,562
2003–04	165,623	71,004

This includes the space that other Government Departments occupy in buildings owned or leased by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister but does not include space that the Office occupies in other Government Departments' buildings.

Although the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has overall responsibility for the buildings occupied by Government Offices, they carry out functions on behalf of 10 Departments.

Government Estate (Sustainable Development)

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes there have been in *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* single occupancy car commuting from his Department against the baseline year of the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [182892]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was unable to establish a baseline for 2002–03 for either *(a)* road transport vehicle carbon dioxide emissions or *(b)* single occupancy car commuting, due to the lack of available data. The data for 2003–04 is still being collated, and will be included in the Sustainable Development in Government: third annual report to be produced by Defra, and published in the autumn.

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Department has joined the Watermark project; and what changes there have been in water consumption by his Department in each year since 1997. [182893]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister joined the Watermark project in 2002, and submitted data for its central London buildings of Eland House and Ashdown House, as well as for the Planning Inspectorate Agency based at Temple Quay House, Bristol and six Government Office and six Rent Service Buildings. Some parts of the estate such as the Fire Service College and the QEII Centre did not submit data, and some other buildings were unable to as they have a shared occupancy where tenancies are not separately metered.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002. Thus 2002–03 formed our baseline water consumption year when 183,346m^3 was used in all the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister buildings that monitor and record water usage. This figure includes all buildings for which data is available, regardless of whether or the data was submitted to the Watermark project. In 2003–04 their water consumption reduced to 160,187m^3.

Although the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has overall responsibility for the buildings occupied by Government Offices, they carry out functions on behalf of 10 Departments.

Green Belt

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the area of land that has been added to the Green Belt was in each year since 1997; and what the total area added was since 1997; [183469]

(2) what the area of land that has been removed from the Green Belt in each year since 1997 is; and what the total area removed since 1997 is; [183538]

(3) what change there has been in the area of Green Belt land in metropolitan areas since 1997. [183463]

Keith Hill: Figures were released on 29 March 2004 showing net changes in the extent of Green Belt between 1997 and 2003. Estimates for the intervening years have not been produced. It was announced in this House on 26 May that an error had been identified in these recently published statistics. Further checks are being carried out to ensure the reliability of the figures prior to re-issuing these statistics.

I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible with the information requested when the checks have been completed, and will make a copy of the letter available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how often the size of the Green Belt is calculated. [183470]

Keith Hill: Statistics on the extent of Green Belt in each local authority in England, derived from digitised boundaries of Green Belt contained in maps of local development plans, were first published in 2000. Prior to

then, estimates were provided but not necessarily on a consistent basis. Statistics, based on updated local development plans, were published in March 2004. Following an error in the latest statistics which was announced to the House on 26 May, a thorough audit of the data is currently being carried out prior to re-publication shortly. It is intended that in future, updates of the extent of Green Belt in England will be published annually.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much of the land added to the Green Belt since 1997 was previously *(a)* brownfield, *(b)* industrial, *(c)* commercial and *(d)* forest land; [183540]

(2) how much of the land removed from the Green Belt since 1997 has been redesignated as *(a)* brownfield, *(b)* industrial, *(c)* commercial and *(d)* forest land. [183586]

Keith Hill: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Homelessness

Mr. Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord lettings have been allocated to statutorily homeless households in temporary accommodation in each year since 1 May 1997. [182905]

Phil Hope: A table on the percentage of permanent local authority and registered social landlord lettings given to statutory homeless households in each financial year since 1997 is given in the table. No information is available to distinguish whether or not these statutory homeless households have been in temporary accommodation previous to receiving a permanent tenancy.

Percentage new lettings given to households that are statutory homeless[1]

Tenure	*1997–98*	*1998–99*	*1999–2000*	*2000–01*	*2001–02*	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
LA[2]	21	20	21	23	26	29	
RSL	12	12	12	12	13	14	15

[1] Transfers, mutual exchanges and non-secure lettings are excluded from the figures.
[2] 1997–98 includes only secure tenancies, while all other years include introductory tenancies. Data not yet available for 2003–04
Source:
ODPM's Housing Investment Programme returns and Housing Corporation's Continous REcording return (CORE)

Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who the members of the local Strategic Partnership in the Wakefield metropolitan district are; and whether the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder applies to Wakefield metropolitan district council. [183410]

Phil Hope: The executive board of the Wakefield District Partnership (the local strategic partnership for the area), has a membership of 21. Those individuals represent a range of organisations, including Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, four public sector bodies (two local PCT's, W. Yorks Police and METRO—the Passenger Transport Exec for W. Yorks), three business organisations (1st Development Agency for Wakefield District, Mid-Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Yorkshire Forward), five community/voluntary organisations (VOX x two representatives, Wakefield Asian Forum, the Community Assembly and Wakefield Cathedral) and the chairs of the LSP's thematic sub-partnerships.

There are no Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder schemes in the Wakefield metropolitan district.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much Neighbourhood Renewal Fund money has been spent in each of the wards that qualify in the Wakefield Metropolitan District since the fund's inception. [183409]

Phil Hope: The information is as follows:

	£ million
Specifically directed to the wards in the worst 10 per cent. on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2000 on the multiple index	3.6
Specifically directed to wards in the worst 10 per cent. on one of the domains in the IMD 2000	1.3
Directed to areas of identified deprivation in all wards across the district	5.0

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people were employed at the Ordnance Survey *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available, broken down by job title; if he will list the job functions performed by those holding each job title; and for how many people the primary function was (i) human resource or personnel functions, (ii) finance and accounting functions, (iii) information technology functions and (iv) other support, back office or administrative functions (A) in 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which information is available. [183460]

Phil Hope: Total full-time equivalent staff numbers at Ordnance Survey, taken from Civil Service Statistics 2002 (the latest official figures available), were 1,810 in 1997 and 1,830 in April 2002.

Ordnance Survey's internal management information provides more detail about the current complement (full-time equivalents as at July 2004).

	Full-time equivalent staff
Data collection and management group	566
Information systems group	233
Programmes and products group	254
Sales and market development group	210
Finance group	62
Strategy group	31
Human resources and corporate services group	106
Total	1,462

The reduction of almost 20 per cent. since 1997 has been achieved, in large part, through the effective application of new technology to meeting customers' needs. It has been supported by judicious use of voluntary early retirement and voluntary early severance schemes.

Ordnance Survey has undergone considerable restructuring since 1997 and as a result the breakdown by business group is not comparable with the older figures. Full-time equivalent numbers by group for 1997 were:

	Full-time equivalent staff
Data collection	738
Information systems	318
Marketing	318
Sales	206
Business services	217
Corporate office	13
Total	1,810

A breakdown of the current headcount by job title is available but runs to several pages so is not included here. Equivalent information for 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Postal Voting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated total cost is of the all-postal pilots in the June elections, broken down by region. [176247]

Mr. Raynsford: The Government's current estimate of the cost of the combined elections in June 2004, in the regions in which all-postal voting is being piloted is:

Region	*Estimate (£ million)*
East Midlands	5
North East	3.2
North West	9.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	6.5
Total	23.8

Public Services (Funding)

Mr. Gale: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will identify, for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies and task forces for which it is responsible, each funding stream for public services in (i) the Isle of Thanet and (ii) the Canterbury city local authority area. [181732]

Mr. Raynsford: The funding streams for those public services in the area of the Isle of Thanet and Canterbury city council include Revenue Support Grant, National Non Domestic Rates and Council Tax. In addition, this Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has responsibility for the following relevant funding streams:

Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) which provides funds for investment in housing

Housing Revenue Account Subsidy

Disabled Facility Grant

Housing Corporation funding for investment in housing through registered social landlords

Transitional Local Authority Social Housing Grant Compensation

Planning Delivery Grant

Single Regeneration Budget

European Regional Development Fund

Capital Challenge (Supplementary Credit and Basic Credit Approvals)

Supporting People

Arson Control Forum Implementation Fund

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much he has spent to date on publicising the proposed regional assembly referendums; and what the expected expenditure is up to polling day. [183518]

Mr. Raynsford: To date, the Government have spent £1,931,000 on the elected regional assembly information campaign.

The expected total expenditure is £5 million. For a breakdown of costs, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) on 19 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 366W.

Right-to-buy Scheme

Mr. Best: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of council homes purchased under the Right-to-Buy scheme in *(a)* Leeds, North-West, *(b)* Leeds, *(c)* West Yorkshire and *(d)* England since 1 May 1997. [183327]

Keith Hill: The following information for Leeds, North-West and Leeds has been provided directly from Leeds city council. The information for West Yorkshire and England was provided to Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's statistics team, their information source is taken from the data provided by local authority statistical returns.

Council homes purchased, since 1 May 1997, under the Right-to-Buy scheme in:

	Number
(a) Leeds, North-West	1,415
(b) Leeds	7,310
(c) West Yorkshire	[1]27,044
(d) England	[1]303,494

[1] 2003–04 data for LAs (reported) and GOs and England are due to be published later this month.

Social Housing (Leeds)

Mr. Best: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to increase the provision of social housing in Leeds, North-West. [183325]

Keith Hill: The 2003 Sustainable Communities Plan set out the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's plans for increasing investment in housing up to 2005–06. It identified actions that we are now taking to improve the availability and quality of social housing, including the establishment of Regional Housing Boards with responsibility for the production of Regional Housing Strategies and advise to Ministers on the allocation of resources to meet regional priorities. The 2004 Spending Review will set out our plans for housing investment for 2006–07 and 2007–08.

The 2003 Regional Housing Strategy and its accompanying investment framework includes the provision of sufficient new homes, creating mixed income and sustainable communities as one of its objectives. This is reflected in the investment framework which, in addition to meeting Housing Corporation commitments and pre-allocations, has commissioned a £51 million two year programme from the Housing Corporation. One of the priorities is affordable housing and a partnership has been set up to tackle the lack of affordable housing in the 'Golden Triangle' area of North Leeds, Harrogate and Leeds. The Regional Housing Board have also provisionally agreed to provide £0.5 million for 2005–06 from its 'Transformational Commissioning' programme and, subject to the outcome of the spending review, significant future commitments over the following five years.

Since 1997 in North West Leeds, the Housing Corporation has invested £2.4 million of social housing grant to provide 80 dwellings of affordable housing.

Leeds city council is also using Planning Policy Guidance (PPG3) to secure an element of affordable housing on new residential development. In this financial year (2004–05) there are 38 affordable houses due to be completed. The council is seeking 50 per cent. of affordable housing on the East of Otley strategic site, which will provide 292 affordable units. On other North West Leeds sites, the council are seeking 25 per cent. of the homes to be affordable. In total these would provide around £500 affordable homes over the next five to 10 years.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister will also be consulting on taking forward the recommendations of Kate Barker's review of housing supply, which include proposals to increase the supply of affordable and sustainable homes.

Urban Sprawl

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what process his Department uses to monitor urban sprawl; [183461]

(2) how his Department defines urban sprawl. [183464]

Keith Hill: Urban sprawl is not a term which is defined in legislation or Government guidance. However, it is generally understood to be the unplanned expansion of an urban area as opposed to planned, sustainable urban growth.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister monitors, through Land Use Change Statistics (LUCS), the extent of, and the changes between, urban and rural land uses. The most recent LUCS Release was published in May as "Land Use Change in England: Residential Development to 2003".

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Bosnia

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the role of British peacekeeping forces in Bosnia in relation to the hunt for war crime suspects, with particular reference to *(a)* Radovan Karadzic and *(b)* General Ratko Mladic. [181485]

Mr. MacShane: The UK remains fully committed to bringing Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic to trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia. Their continued presence at large is an obstacle to justice and reconciliation, and to the region's political and economic development.

UK troops have been involved in the detention of 21 indictees, of the total of 46 apprehended by NATO SFOR. The UK Government remains committed to diplomatic, political and operational efforts to bring about the detention and transfer to The Hague of all fugitive indictees.

Ukraine

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ukrainian Government on possible advice and assistance to them in the presidential election in October; and if he will make a statement. [183758]

Mr. MacShane: The British embassy in Kiev is in regular contact with the Ukrainian authorities and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) project office in Kiev about advice and assistance in regard to the elections. Some OSCE assistance is part-funded by the Government. I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to him today (UIN 183755).

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the British ambassador to the Ukraine on the forthcoming presidential election in the Ukraine; and if he will make a statement. [183754]

Mr. MacShane: The British ambassador reports regularly from Kiev to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in writing, including on matters connected with the Presidential election.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance the Government will give the Ukrainian Government to assist them in the presidential election in October; and if he will make a statement. [183755]

Mr. MacShane: The Government have committed more than £3 million to create an environment in which Ukrainian elections can be more democratic, improve candidates' media access and enable independent Ukrainian media to expose electoral malpractice. In addition to direct assistance to the Ukrainian Government through the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, many of these projects are delivered by NGOs in Ukraine.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what observer personnel will be sent by the Government to the presidential election in the Ukraine in October; and if he will make a statement. [183756]

Mr. MacShane: The Government are committed to providing 10 per cent. of the personnel for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) election observation missions. This will include the deployment of a substantial number of British observers to Ukraine for the Presidential elections. Precise arrangements have yet to be finalised.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the President of the Ukraine on the conduct of the presidential election in October; and if he will make a statement. [183759]

Mr. MacShane: At the NATO-Ukraine summit in Istanbul in June, attended by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, NATO Heads of Government drew President Kuchma's attention to the need for free and fair elections. The elections were also discussed at the EU-Ukraine summit in The Hague on 8 July, which President Kuchma attended.

Border Movements (Iran)

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department is monitoring the number of persons moving over the border from Iran into Iraq; what assessment he has made of the purposes of their migration; and what representations he has made to the Iranian Government concerning this issue. [183816]

Mr. Straw: The Iraqi Interim Government is responsible for Iraq's border security and has announced that it will use advanced technology to intercept terrorists, smugglers, illegal immigrants and contraband. We are working to help the Iraqis with this.

Migration between Iran and Iraq is a bilateral matter for those two countries. But we have made very clear to the Iranian authorities that we expect them not to take actions that would undermine Iraq's stability.

Cyprus

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Turkish Government on the reopening of discussions with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to seek to resolve the issue of missing people following the events of 1974 in Cyprus. [183926]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with the Turkish Government about this. But we take very seriously the issue of missing persons in Cyprus. We urge all sides to co-operate in reactivating the Committee of Missing Persons in order to resolve this painful question once and for all.

The staff of the British High Commission in Nicosia work closely with the United Nations' Acting Third Member of the Committee on Missing Persons in order to identify areas where the UK can assist in taking the issue forward.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the President of the Republic of Cyprus since the referendum result on the Annan Plan proposals. [183927]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to President Papadopoulos and other members of the Republic of Cyprus Government in the margins of meetings of the European Council and the General Affairs Council on a number of occasions since the 24 April referendums.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Turkish Cypriot administration in Northern Cyprus on steps to ensure that land and properties belonging to Greek Cypriots in Northern Cyprus are not sold to non-Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [183963]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community on 1 July. They discussed the current situation in Cyprus and how best to take forward efforts to reach a settlement.

Satisfactorily resolving the issue of property remains central to achieving a comprehensive and sustainable settlement. It is a matter of deep regret that the UN Secretary-General's settlement plan, which set out a way to resolve these property questions, based in part on Greek Cypriot ideas, was rejected by the Greek Cypriots on 24 April.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Greek Cypriot Government on *(a)* how financial help can be given to the Turkish Cypriot community living in Northern Cyprus and *(b)* for what projects this money will be spent. [183964]

Mr. MacShane: The EU General Affairs Council on 26 April agreed that, notwithstanding the rejection of the settlement plan by the Greek Cypriots, €259 million previously earmarked for northern Cyprus in the event of a settlement should still be used for that purpose.

Following the publication on 7 July of the Commission's proposals for financial aid to the Turkish Cypriots, EU member states are working to reach final agreement on these measures. It is envisaged that the funds will be used to encourage the economic

integration of the island, through alignment with the EU acquis, to improve contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and to develop the infrastructure.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Greek Cypriot Government on bilateral relations following the referendum vote in Cyprus. [183965]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I regularly meet the Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou. Most recently I spoke to Mr. Iacovou at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels on 12 July. We discussed UK-Cyprus relations and the need to reach a Cyprus settlement. I told Mr. Iacovou that I hoped to visit Cyprus soon.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representation the British High Commissioner and senior members of his staff in Cyprus have at joint meetings of Greek and Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [183966]

Mr. MacShane: The ambassador of Slovakia organises and hosts regular bi-communal meetings at the Ledra Palace in Nicosia. Non-Cypriots are not usually invited.

The British High Commissioner separately organises and hosts events to which members of both communities are invited.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimates were made of the number of Greek Cypriots who would have been able to return to their former properties in Northern Cyprus under the Annan Plan proposals; and if he will make a statement. [183967]

Mr. MacShane: As a result of the proposed territorial adjustment set out in the Annan Plan, the UN estimated that more than 86,000 (around 120,000 with offspring) displaced Greek Cypriots would have been able to return to their former homes under Greek Cypriot administration.

In addition, after the end of the transitional period, the UN estimated that some further 100,000 Greek Cypriots would have been able to take up permanent residence in the territory under Turkish Cypriot administration.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the further developments that the Turkish Government have indicated are required on the issue of Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [183968]

Mr. MacShane: Prime Minister Erdogan's Government have adopted a positive and constructive approach, fully in support of the UN's efforts to reach a Cyprus settlement. I commend them for that. Any positive steps that either side might take in order to give a renewed boost to settlement efforts would of course be most welcome.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he discussed at his recent meeting with Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat the de-mining of land in the Turkish Cypriot area in Northern Cyprus. [183969]

Mr. MacShane: When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met Mr. Talat on 1 July the issue of de-mining was not discussed.

However, the Government are supportive of efforts to address this important issue and in our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot authorities we have urged them to move forward.

It should also be noted that the European Commission is funding a de-mining project in Cyprus. This project is drawing on UK expertise and is partly funded by a UK contribution.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the British representative to the United Nations in New York last met the Greek Cypriot representative; what subjects were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [183970]

Mr. MacShane: The UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations meets his Greek Cypriot counterpart on a regular basis—including at the weekly meetings of EU ambassadors.

The most recent detailed discussions between the UK and Cypriot missions in New York took place on 29 June when the UK Deputy Permanent Representative called on ambassador Mavroyiannis.

Departmental Publications (Storage)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many departmental publications are in storage; and where they are located. [183873]

Mr. Straw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) produces a range of printed publications; some are produced in-house, others are published on our behalf by commercial publishers e.g. The Stationery Office. Details are included in the FOI Publication Scheme on the FCO website: www.foc.gov.uk. Limited stocks are held of publications for which the FCO is both the publisher and distributor; publications are re-printed as required. The retention and storage of items published commercially is a matter for the publisher.

Dr. al-Qaradawi

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which country the visa for Dr. al-Qaradawi was granted; and what consultation took place between London and the consular office who granted the visa. [183774]

Mr. Straw: I am withholding the information requested under exemption 5 of Part 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

It is not our practice to disclose details of individual entry clearance cases.

EU Constitution

Mrs. Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 128W, on EU Policy (Voting Method), whether, under Part III of the draft Treaty, because the voting method is not specified, the default applies, and proposals are subject to Qualified Majority Voting. [182518]

Mr. MacShane *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* As under the current Treaty, member states will coordinate their economic policies through broad economic policy guidelines which are non-binding and finalised in the European Council by consensus; and the Council will also continue to vote by QMV for other stages of multilateral surveillance and excessive deficit procedures as set out in article III-71 and III-76. Only members of the euro area would vote where a decision concerns a member of the area. The new Constitutional Treaty does not affect a member state's ability to determine its own economic policies.

Gibraltar

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Government Ministers are planning to visit Gibraltar on 4 August to join in the tercentenary celebrations. [182837]

Mr. MacShane: Details of any ministerial involvement will be announced nearer the time.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the electorate of Gibraltar will be entitled to vote in the referendum on the European Constitution. [182909]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is sympathetic to the inclusion of the Gibraltar electorate in the franchise for the referendum on the EU Constitutional Treaty, as he stated to the Foreign Affairs Committee on 25 May. As yet, the Government have not yet taken a decision on this issue and are continuing to consider the matter.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has spoken to the Chief Minister of Gibraltar in the past 12 months; and what main issues were discussed. [182910]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Chief Minister of Gibraltar in London on 26 May 2004 when they discussed Gibraltar's constitutional reform proposals.

TRANSPORT

Finningley Airport

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of local employment opportunities to be created by the development of Finningley airport; what assessment has been made of the effect on jobs at other regional airports; and if he will make a statement. [183014]

Mr. McNulty: The development of the airport at Finningley is likely to create at least 2,400 new jobs. The assessment of the effect on jobs at other regional airports shows that the diversion effects would be relatively small and would not inhibit their long-term growth potential.

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was allocated to Peel Holdings plc for the development of Finningley airport from *(a)* Objective 1 funds and *(b)* other sources of European and public funds. [183012]

Mr. McNulty: No allocation of funds from either Objective 1, other European or public funds has been made to Peel Holdings for the development of the airport at Finningley. As a result of Peel Holdings' application for Objective 1 support, a submission to the European Commission has been made but no decision has yet been received.

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the compliance of the development of Finningley airport with the *(a)* public inquiry decision and *(b)* EU rules on additionality; and if he will make a statement. [183013]

Mr. McNulty: Insofar as a submission has been made to the European Commission for the use of Objective 1 funds for the development of the airport at Finningley, officials have taken the public inquiry decision as well as additionality criteria into account in their submission. Compliance with the public inquiry decision would be a condition of any future offer of grant. A growth limit is also imposed on the airport by the public inquiry decision.

Airline Pilots (Security Passes)

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on proposed changes to the system for issuing security passes to airline pilots; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* process for introduction is. [183940]

Mr. McNulty: The Department is not planning any changes to the system for issuing Restricted Zone passes to airline pilots. Officials are, however undertaking a review of the criminal record check requirement for holders of restricted zone passes. The timing of implementation of any agreed changes would be dependent on consultations with stakeholders.

Airtrack

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he, his ministerial colleagues or his officials last met the Strategic Rail Authority to discuss Airtrack; and what matters were discussed; [183293]

(2) when he, his ministerial colleagues or officials last met the promoters of Airtrack; and what was discussed; [183298]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact on traffic flows on motorways close to Heathrow airport of introducing Airtrack. [183300]

Mr. McNulty: The promoters of Airtrack last briefed officials on progress in developing their proposals on 6 July. Officials also received a briefing from the SRA on 18 June in the wider context of surface access issues at Heathrow airport. At this stage, the Department has not made any assessment of the effect of Airtrack on traffic flows on motorways close to the airport.

Alcohol Limits

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review the maximum limit for consumption of alcohol by drivers of road vehicles. [183485]

Mr. Jamieson: There are no plans at present to review the legal alcohol limit for drivers. The Government considers that strengthened enforcement of existing controls, together with high-profile publicity campaigns and driver education, is the appropriate way of reducing drink-related crashes and casualties.

Crew Travel Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to expand the scope of the crew travel scheme. [182998]

Mr. Jamieson: In the White Paper 'British Shipping: Charting a new course' we said we would extend the scheme to include EU ports, but would limit CRCS to UK flagged vessels. Revision of the eligibility criteria for the Crew Relief Costs scheme requires primary legislation. To date no pparliamentary time has been available.

Cross-border Toll Roads

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the National Assembly for Wales regarding the introduction of cross-border toll roads. [183021]

Mr. Jamieson: There have been no specific discussions regarding the introduction of cross-border toll roads with the National Assembly for Wales.

Drivers (Drug Testing)

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements have been put in place for the testing of drivers of road vehicles who are suspected by a police officer to be driving while under the influence of drugs. [183483]

Mr. Jamieson: Where the police suspect that a driver is unfit to drive, and may be under the influence of drugs, there are long-standing provisions for the police to arrest and test the driver in custody. In addition, section 107 of and schedule 7 to the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 provide powers for the police to require specimens for roadside screening tests for the presence of drugs and to undertake impairment testing that will help an officer reach a judgement whether a driver may be unfit to drive.

The type-approval specification for roadside screening devices and the Code of Practice for officers administering impairment testing (required by the new legislation) are presently in preparation.

Foreign-registered Vehicles

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 23 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1405W, on foreign registered vehicles, under what statutory powers UK police may prosecute Irish registered vehicles that do not display up-to-date Irish road tax; and in respect of how many such vehicles prosecutions have been brought in the last three years. [181407]

Mr. Jamieson: The UK enforcement authorities may prosecute Irish registered vehicles which do not display up-to-date Irish road tax under Section 29 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994. Figures for prosecutions against foreign registered vehicles are not available.

Heathrow-Belfast Flights

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions with British Airways as part of the Regional Air Services Consultation in relation to the reintroduction of a Heathrow-Belfast service by the airline; and if he will make a statement. [183496]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* It is not Government policy to intervene in individual airline's commercial decisions with regard to flight destinations. However we recognise the importance of regional air services to London and recently launched a public consultation on the protection of regional air services to London. We will continue to hold discussions with the UK airline industry as we develop policy in this area. In addition, the hon. Lady will be aware that since it was set up in September last year, the Northern Ireland Route Development Fund has lead to the establishment of four new routes to destinations in the UK and continental Europe and discussions are under way on additional services.

HGV Accidents

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2002 involving heavy goods vehicles resulted in a person being killed or seriously injured; and how many people were killed or seriously injured in collisions involving an HGV in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2002. [182735]

Mr. Jamieson: The following table shows both fatal and serious accidents and fatal and seriously injured casualties in accidents involving heavy goods vehicles in 2003 and 2002.

Accidents and casualties involving HGVs by severity: 2002,2003

	Fatal	*Serious*	*Total*
Accidents			
2003	480	1,755	2,235
2002	480	1,888	2,368
Casualties			
2003	528	2,111	2,639
2002	532	2,374	2,906

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Paul Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each year since the Department's creation the number of miles flown by each Minister on official departmental business. [181866]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. These report information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Motor Cycling

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with groups representing motorcyclists with a view to involving them in efforts to reduce road casualties attributable to motorcycling. [183486]

Mr. Jamieson: The Advisory Group on Motorcycling, which I Chair, has been reviewing motorcycling safety in considerable depth, among other motorcycling issues, and will shortly publish its Final Report to Government, following which the Government will issue its national strategy for motorcycling. The Advisory Group includes the British Motorcyclists Federation, the Motorcycle Action Group, the Motorcycle Industry Association, the Motorcycle Retailers Association, the Motorcycle Rider Training Association and the Despatch Association.

Oil Transfers (Lyme Bay)

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 481W, on oil transfers (Lyme Bay), if he will list the vessels involved in oil transfers in Lyme Bay in 2003, broken down by *(a)* mother ships and *(b)* shuttle tankers. [183151]

Mr. Jamieson: Further investigation by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has confirmed that there were in fact 20 ships involved in transfers in 2003.

The mother ships were:

Iran Hormoz
Arosa
Iran Nabi.

The shuttle tankers were:

Baltic Commander
Fili
Natura
Kogalym
Zoja II
Maremar
Montreaux
Seine
White Point
Kapitan Putilin
Kazym River
FS Vanessa
Odin
Kapitan Zhuraylov
Blue Dolphin
Alia
Nounou.

Ports

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he subscribes to the policy on port development set out in paragraph 2.5.10 of Modern Ports: a UK Policy. [183577]

Mr. Jamieson: Yes. Government policy on port development remains as set out in this and other related paragraphs in the document.

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he subscribes to the policy on container ports set out in paragraphs *(a)* 2.1.4, *(b)* 2.1.5, *(c)* 2.4.6 and *(d)* 2.4.8 of Modern Ports: a UK Policy. [183578]

Mr. Jamieson: Yes. Government policy on container ports remains as set out in these and other related paragraphs in the document.

Potters Bar Rail Accident

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers he has to intervene in the payment of compensation by Network Rail to the bereaved families and survivors of the Potters Bar derailment; what plans and representations he has made to Network Rail on this subject; and if he will make a statement. [182865]

Mr. McNulty: Compensation cases of this kind have to be resolved between the victims or their representatives and Network Rail and Jarvis. Ultimately the courts are the only body that can intervene if no agreement is reached. There are no powers for Ministers to intervene. However, I have written to Network Rail about the issues raised on compensation in your adjournment debate on the Potters Bar derailment on 30 June.

Queen Mary

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the Marine and Coastguard Agency inspected the Queen Mary; what certification the vessel was given; on what date the attention of the MCA was drawn to the fire hazards present in the ship; what the source of this information was; and what investigations the MCA is carrying out into the original survey and certification. [182799]

Mr. Jamieson: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency issued a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate for the Queen Mary 2 on 22 December 2003. Representatives of the

BBC met with the Agency's Chief Executive on 8 June 2004 and alerted him to their on-going investigation into the fire safety standards of the ship's bathroom units. The Agency immediately started their own investigation, taking samples and having them tested. These tests were completed on 24 June.

The Agency has now started a further investigation into the products used in the manufacture of bathroom units and its original testing and certification. In the meantime, additional safety measures have been introduced onboard the Queen Mary 2.

Rail Regulator

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what restrictions will be placed on the previous rail regulator representing rail companies as a private lawyer; and for how long these restrictions will apply. [182801]

Mr. Darling: Under the rules on the acceptance of outside appointments, Mr. Tom Winsor applied for permission to accept an appointment with White and Case Solicitors. The Prime Minister, on the advice of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, approved the application subject to certain specified conditions that have been agreed with Mr. Winsor:

> That any GB rail practice which Mr Winsor establishes does not, from the date of termination of his term as Rail Regulator, provide legal advice:
>
> (i) for three months to any client in respect of any aspect of GB railways;
>
> (ii) for six months to any train or freight operating company with GB railways interests;
>
> (iii) for 12 months to any company in whose favour Mr. Winsor has, as Regulator or International Rail Regulator, determined a legal appeal; and
>
> (iv) for two years to Network Rail or any of its subsidiaries.
>
> Furthermore, for two years after Mr. Winsor ceases to be Regulator he would, consistent with his professional obligations, inform the Department of an intention to provide legal advice to any company, other than passenger or freight operating companies in respect of GB railway interests and Network Rail or its subsidiaries, where there are reasonable grounds to include there is a conflict of interest or propriety issue to be addressed. Mr. Winsor would be required to accept as final the Secretary of State's decision on propriety.

This information was published in a press statement issued by the Rail Regulator on 28 June 2004.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget of the rail regulator for 2003–04 was; what the budget for the new rail regulator board for its first year of operation is; and if he will make a statement. [183397]

Mr. Darling: The original budget set for the Office of the Rail Regulator for the financial year 2003–04 was £14.8 million.

The budget set for the financial year 2004–05 is £14.1 million. The first three months of the budget related to the operation of the Office of the Rail Regulator. The final nine months relate to the operation of the Office of Rail Regulation.

Rescue Co-ordination Centres

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rescue co-ordination centres were understaffed at 1 July; and how many staff were *(a)* fully-qualified and *(b)* watch assistants on that date. [182800]

Mr. Jamieson: Of the 19 HM Coastguard rescue co-ordination centres in the UK, 11 carried vacancies at 1 July. The number of fully qualified staff on the watch rota on that date was 389, of which 215 were watch assistants.

Rural Bus Grants (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rural bus services in Warrington, North are supported by rural bus grants. [183056]

Mr. McNulty: Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) is paid to local transport authorities, in the case of Warrington, North this is the Warrington borough council. It is for the authority to decide which services should be supported with the grant. Warrington's RBSG allocation for 2004–05 is £107,875, and we understand from the local authority that this supports three bus services in Warrington, North.

Seafarer Training

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will approve 100 per cent. SMarT-type funding for training for seafarers. [182997]

Mr. Jamieson: Financial assistance under the Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) scheme covers around 50 per cent. of the costs. There are currently no plans to increase this to 100 per cent.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to allow the training of UK domiciled seafarers to *(a)* Master and *(b)* Chief Engineer level to be state aided training. [182999]

Mr. Jamieson: Financial assistance to organisations providing seafarer training is provided under the Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) scheme. Master and Chief Engineer levels are not covered by the scheme, and there are currently no plans to do so.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to provide state subsidies for the shore based training of cadets. [183000]

Mr. Jamieson: Financial assistance is available to organisations providing merchant navy training under the Government's Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) scheme. Shore based training of cadets is assisted under SMarT categories 2, 3 and 4.

Speed Cameras/Limits

Mr. Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured since the installation of the camera at each speed camera site covered by the University College London/PA Consulting Group report. [181950]

Mr. Jamieson: Information on the numbers of people killed or seriously injured at safety camera sites operated by the 22 English and Welsh Partnerships was published

by the department on 15 June and is available in the Library. I will write to the hon. Member with information on the numbers of people killed at each site.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to change the hierarchy of speed limits on roads, with particular reference to rural roads; and if he will make a statement; [183482]

(2) when he intends to publish an amended guidance circular on setting speed limits. [183484]

Mr. Jamieson: My Department will shortly be consulting on a draft circular, updating the Government's guidance to local authorities on the setting of local speed limits. We aim to complete the consultation and publish the new circular by the end of 2004.

We do not envisage introducing a hierarchy of speed limits on roads, in the light of the Government's Report on a Rural Road Hierarchy, published in November 2001, which concluded that a formal hierarchy of road types and speeds would be over-rigid, and inconsistent with local authorities' flexibility in setting speed limits which reflect local circumstances.

Tonnage Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has conducted into the different levels of tonnage tax, which apply to other EU countries. [183001]

Mr. Jamieson: Tonnage tax rates in EU member states are shown in the following table.

Taxable profit per ship per day per 100 net tons, in Euros

	0 to 1,000 tons	*1,001 to 10,000 tons*	*10,001 to 25,000 tons*	*25,001 tons and over*
Denmark	0.94	0.67	0.40	0.27
Germany	0.92	0.69	0.46	0.23
Ireland	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.25
Netherlands	0.91	0.67	0.46	0.23
Spain	0.90	0.70	0.40	0.20
UK	0.90	0.68	0.45	0.23
Belgium	1.00	0.60	0.40	0.20
France	0.93	0.71	0.47	0.25
Italy	0.90	0.70	0.40	0.20

Transport Act

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of section 124 of the Transport Act 2000; and what plans he has to review it. [182721]

Mr. McNulty: While the legislation governing buses is kept under review, we have no plans for major changes to the present legislative framework. The hon. Gentleman will be aware that the Government have recently consulted stakeholders on the proposal to reduce the 21-month implementation period for bus quality contracts. We are evaluating the responses to the consultation and will be announcing the outcome shortly. We are also currently consulting stakeholders on draft guidance for local transport authorities who may be considering applying for bus quality contracts.

Transport Funding (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which transport projects in Warrington have received government funding since 1997. [183055]

Mr. McNulty: There have been three Government funded major schemes taken forward via Warrington's Local Transport Plan and the previous Transport Policies and Programme systems.

1. Urban Traffic Management & Control (DfT funding of £5.195 million 2001–2002—this project has incurred expenditure to date, and is ongoing.

The following projects have yet to gain full approval from DfT, but have received provisional funding to the maximum cash figures stated:

2. Bridgefoot bypass (£5.895million provisionally approved DfT funding 2001–02)

3. Central Bus Interchange (£6.338 million provisionally approved DfT funding 2003–04)

Additionally in 2002–03, Warrington borough council undertook 58 separately identifiable minor works schemes.

CABINET OFFICE

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his office's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the Office equal pay action plan. [181341]

Mr. Alexander: The Cabinet Office, Central Office of Information (COI) and the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) review their pay systems on an ongoing basis as part of pay negotiations.

The non-departmental public bodies are advisory and have no staff. Support is provided by Cabinet Office staff.

Copies of the Cabinet Office and GCDA equal pay action plans have been placed in the Library. The COI equal pay audit did not identify any required action.

Prime Minister's Delivery Unit

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit was in each year since it was created. [180537]

Mr. Alexander: For actual spend figures for 2001–02 and 2002–03,I refer the right hon. Member to the response I gave the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 19 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 878W. The actual spend by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit for 2003–04 was £3,576, 354. The budget for 2004–05 is £3,909,350.

Regulations (Compliance Costs)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his estimate is of the *(a)* total and *(b)* compliance cost of regulation in the UK as a percentage of gross domestic product. [181025]

Mr. Alexander: No estimate of these costs has been made by the Government, and to provide such estimates would incur disproportionate costs. Regulatory Impact Assessments are produced for all new regulations affecting business, charities, and the voluntary sector, for which it is a requirement that the benefits justify the costs.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Education (Budget)

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the projected budget in the next year is for *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* further education in Northern Ireland; [183514]

(2) what the projected administration spending within education is in the next year; [183515]

(3) what the projected division in budget among the education and library boards is in the next year; and what percentage is allocated for administration within each board. [183516]

Mr. Gardiner: Specific budgets for the 2005–06 financial year will be determined in light of the outcome of the Budget 2004 Spending Review.

Fuel Prices

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with Northern Ireland's petrol and oil distribution industry about the cost of fuels; and if he will make a statement. [183235]

Mr. Gardiner: I have had no such recent discussions. The level of prices is a commercial decision taken by the petrol and oil distribution industry. Unless there is evidence of "price fixing" Government cannot intervene in these decisions.

Heavy School Bags

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will conduct a risk assessment of the effects on school children of regularly carrying heavy school bags. [180578]

Mr. Gardiner: There are no plans for a departmental risk assessment of the effects on school children of carrying heavy school bags. The weight of school bags is a local management issue, and where individual concerns are raised, responsibility to resolve the issue is shared as appropriate between the relevant school authorities, the pupils themselves, and their parents.

High Hedges

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce legislation to deal with the problems associated with high hedges in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [183389]

Angela Smith: I intend to issue a consultation paper in the autumn of 2004 to obtain information on the scale of the nuisance high hedge problem and views on how this may best be addressed.

Should this consultation indicate that the nuisance high hedge problem requires Government intervention, I will seek to bring forward detailed legislative proposals as quickly as possible.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff of the Northern Ireland Civil Service in the latest year for which figures are available. [182113]

Mr. Pearson: The total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain for the period 2003–04 was:

	£
(a) Ministers	523,730
(b) Staff	4,089,340

The figures at *(b)* refer to travel by all civil servants (including Home Civil Service staff) working in the NICS and NIO.

The figures included for NICS staff only relate to bookings made through the NICS contracted travel agency service and do not include any journeys undertaken which were booked through any other channels as this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

MOT Tests

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to authorise designated garages in Northern Ireland to carry out MOT tests. [183236]

Angela Smith: I have no plans at present to authorise garages to carry out MOT tests. Despite the current difficulties due to industrial action, the Driver & Vehicle Testing Agency has a very good track record of delivering a consistent, objective and independent service, of delivering value for money, and of meeting key targets, and each time alternative arrangements have been considered previously the conclusion has been that the existing system best serves the needs of the people of Northern Ireland.

Sewage Treatment Facilities (Sion Mills)

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many households are served by sewage treatment facilities at Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone; and what additional capacity there is in these facilities to serve future housing developments within the Sion Mills area. [183220]

Mr. Spellar: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan to Mr. David Burnside:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary question (No. 2316) about the number of households served by sewage treatment facilities in Sion Mills and the additional capacity to serve future housing developments within the Sion Mills area. The Chief Executive of Water Service was asked to respond as the issue falls within her operational responsibility, and I am replying on her behalf as she is currently on annual leave.

The existing Sion Mills Wastewater Treatment Works serves approximately 1,100 domestic households in Sion Mills. It also serves some non-residential development. It is recognized that the existing Treatment Works does not have the capacity to deal with any significant additional loading.

However, as part of the major investment programme aimed at improving waste water infrastructure across Northern Ireland, Water Service is planning to upgrade the Sion Mills Wastewater Treatment Works at an estimated cost of £1 million. The scheme is programmed to commence on site in April 2005 and to be completed in March 2006, subject to completion of all the statutory processes including obtaining Crown Development planning approval. The new Works will be designed to cater for future development in the Sion Mills area up to the year 2030.

Stormont

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken against the person or persons responsible for the lapse in security surrounding the breach of security at Stormont; and what security responsibilities those people still carry out. [182613]

Mr. Pearson: I assume the hon. Lady is referring to the case of William Mackessy. His case is still sub judice and I cannot comment further. I can however say, as the Government have said before, that we have taken the alleged intelligence-gathering operation at Stormont very seriously. An audit of security procedures in the NIO has been carried out by the Security Service and action regarding the recommendations is under way.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the financial cost of the breach of security at Stormont has been to date; what the anticipated cost is; and how many people have been displaced as a result. [182614]

Mr. Pearson: The cost to date of the security breach, as a result of which the personal details of 1,426 prison staff were found to be in possession of the Provisional IRA, is approximately £17 million. This is comprised of the cost of the Assisted Home Removal Scheme and the cost of security measures for those staff who decided to remain in their homes. These figures do not include the cost of the SPED Scheme operated by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The anticipated cost is likely to be approximately £30 million. Some officers have still to find new permanent accommodation, not all the security work has been completed and a number of claims by staff for reparation for the stress suffered as a result of the security breach are being considered.

454 staff moved home under the Assisted Home Removals Scheme.

Titanic Quarter

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what consultation he intends to hold, and with what organisations, in the development of the area known as the Titanic Quarter, [182605]

(2) what plans he has to put planning restrictions in place in the area known as the Titanic Quarter whilst development plans are being considered. [182607]

Angela Smith: There are already in place a range of planning restrictions over development the Titanic Quarter. These are contained in a variety of documents including, including the Regional Development Strategy 2025, the Belfast Harbour Local Plan 1990–2005, the Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001, and relevant Planning Policy Statements. In addition protection has given to a number of historic buildings and sites, as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments.

A specific framework for the future development of Titanic Quarter is likely to be brought forward in the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP) which is due to be published in the autumn of 2004.

In the run-up to its publication, all Northern Ireland Government Departments will have been consulted. Additionally, upon publication of the Plan, all interested organisations and individuals will be afforded the opportunity to make comment on any proposals contained therein in accordance with the provisions of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Urban Regeneration/Community Development Grants

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will give details of the weaknesses identified in the Auditor General's Report, NIA 41/03, HC 673 on the financial and monitoring control of urban regeneration and community development grants to voluntary and community bodies. [183062]

Mr. Spellar: The Comptroller and Auditor General's report of 2002–03 identified the following weaknesses in the financial and monitoring control arrangements within the Urban Regeneration and Community Development Group:

failure by the Department to ensure that proper tendering procedures were followed by groups, including obtaining quotations as appropriate;

overpayment of grant by the Department due to clerical error, for example, where staff had failed to identify ineligible expenditure claimed by one group and incorrectly calculated grant due in another instance;

failure of Department to ensure actual receipts supporting grant claims accurately matched the letter of offer analysis of expenditure;

failure by the Department to ensure groups had physically received goods before paying grant;

failure by the Department to ensure project progress and final evaluation reports outlining the outputs achieved against targets were received in accordance with letters of offer before paying final grant instalments; and

instances were noted where the Department had failed to rigorously check that grant had been applied by groups as intended by letters of offer. For example, in one case grant was paid towards salary costs in respect of a post which has not yet been filled.

To remedy the weaknesses the Department for Social Development has put in place the following:

(i) the establishment of Business Support Units (BSU) in four of the URCDG Directorates to promote Best Practice and undertake monitoring and verification of funded projects. Best Practice is further shared throughout the Group by way of a URCDG BSU Forum;

(ii) the introduction of enhanced monitoring in the North West Development Office by way of project visits;

(iii) the development of a new Contract for Funding (CFF) (formerly Letter of Offer) and training of staff on the revised CFF.

(iv) a greater focus on monitoring of expenditure and project evaluation

Full details of the Auditor General's findings are contained in his Report which was laid

Victim Support

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made by Victim Support Northern Ireland in implementing the recommendations contained in the external review conducted by PA consultants in May 2003. [183388]

Mr. Spellar: Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI) is core funded by Government to provide support, practical help and information to victims of crime in Northern Ireland. In accordance with the conditions of grant, an external review of VSNI was completed by PA Consulting in May 2003.

In June 2003, VSNI agreed an implementation plan for the recommendations. Government has closely monitored the progress made on these recommendations through progress reports and quarterly bilateral meetings with VSNI.

On 14 June 2004 my officials met with the Chair and Senior Management Team of VSNI to discuss in detail the progress made on the recommendations and a revised implementation plan with timescales was prepared.

A number of recommendations have been completed and it is anticipated that over half of the 83 recommendations made should be completed by the end of 2004.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Scheme

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to *(a)* increase the budget for the Access to Work Scheme and *(b)* advertise all elements of the scheme. [182600]

Maria Eagle: The Access to Work programme is open to disabled people already in employment (including self-employment), people changing jobs and unemployed people about to start work. It helps towards the additional employment costs resulting from disability, for example help with the costs of travelling to work, adaptations to premises and special equipment.

Spending on the programme, together with the number of people helped has trebled since 1997. While we have no current plans to increase the budget further, funding will continue to be kept under review.

Jobcentre Plus invests around £300,000 per year on marketing and publicising its specialised services and programmes for disabled people. Promotional material is available in a wide range of media such as leaflets, audiotapes, videos and on the Jobcentre Plus website; new leaflets about Access to Work for use at conferences and exhibitions and information are available.

Individuals and employers can access more detailed information through Jobcentre Plus Disability Employment Advisers and Access to Work Advisers.

Benefit Payments

Linda Perham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people aged over 50 years who made a new claim for incapacity benefit or income support with disability premium were (i) still claiming the benefit, (ii) claiming another benefit and (iii) in employment six months later in the latest period for which figures are available. [181113]

Maria Eagle: The available information is in the table.

People making a new claim to incapacity benefit (IB) or awarded income support with a disability premium (ISDP), March 2002 to February 2003

Thousand

	Status of claim six months after commencement			
	All commencements	*All still receiving IB /ISDP*	*All receiving another benefit*	*All leaving benefit*
All ages	907.3	623.1	72.0	212.2
Claimant aged up to and including 50 years	678.6	462.0	61.1	155.5
Claimant aged over 50 years	228.7	161.1	10.9	56.7

Notes:

1. Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Figures are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. Age is given at the point the claim commences.
3. Income support disability premium commencements include both new/repeat claims to benefit and those persons moving into the disability premium group from another income support statistical group.
4. Incapacity benefit figures are based on persons claiming long-term or short-term incapacity benefit, national insurance credits only cases, and those persons claiming IB but who have their benefit extinguished for reasons such as an overlap with another benefit, or because of hospitalisation.
5. A person is counted only once in each period, regardless of the number of times they claim and subsequently leave each benefit. Only the first claim in any given period is counted, and it is that claim from which the six-month period has been calculated.
6. Income support claims and status are based on a series of point in time sample enquiries taken in February, May, August and November of each year. These enquiries are a snapshot of live claims on the enquiry date. Claims which start and end between enquiry dates are not captured, and as such numbers of IS claims made may be underestimated.
7. End dates of IS claims are not collected, therefore the claim end dates for IS claimants are estimated. Persons returning within six months will therefore be a six-month period from the estimated end date.

8. Movements between ISDP and IB, and where a claim to one of these benefits terminates and a new claim is made before the six-month point, are classified as still claiming the original benefit. Movements from ISDP to another IS statistical group are classified as receiving another benefit, as the basis of entitlement may have changed.

Source:

DWP—IAD Information Centre, 5 per cent. samples

Blind and Partially-Sighted People

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase funding for rehabilitation and training programmes to meet the needs of blind and partially-sighted people. [182599]

Jane Kennedy: We have no plans to increase funding in these programmes specifically to meet the needs of blind and partially-sighted people at present.

Our ambition is to ensure that the appropriate support mechanisms are in place to enable still more disabled people and those with health problems to move toward, access and retain employment.

We are in the process of developing a Framework for Vocational Rehabilitation, which is expected to be published later this year. We have undertaken an extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders and have spoken at length with colleagues in the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales in order to understand how vocational rehabilitation currently works in the UK and to share thinking on the way forward.

The framework will provide a necessary first step and platform from which to adopt a new approach to vocational rehabilitation in the UK.

Child Support

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Child Support Agency enforcement actions against non-resident parents who refuse to pay child support maintenance. [181628]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Ms Anne Campbell, dated 14 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Child Support Agency enforcement actions against non-resident parents who refuse to pay child support maintenance.

The Agency recognises that it must do more to improve compliance with and enforcement of maintenance calculations. In the last year they have implemented the findings of a review of their enforcement organisation and processes and made a number of improvements.

These include the development of an enforcement policy and strategy designed to support the legislative intent; an accountability framework detailing the responsibilities of the business; and various activities to support management and staff to deliver improvements.

These activities have brought the Agency's enforcement area to a consistent and professional level throughout the organisation, providing a solid basis for continuous improvement activity. Improvements can be seen in the tables below:

Table 1

	Pre review April 2001-July 2002	*Post review September 2002-December 2003*	*Percentage improvement*
Liability orders	2,108	4,406	109
Levy of distress (bailiff action)	2,565	3,700	44
Third party debt/arrestments	115	238	107
Charging orders/bill of inhibition	141	238	69

The enforcement sections can use any of these methods to enforce the debt and these methods can be used concurrently. The enforcement section chooses the method appropriate for the individual case.

Table 2: Bailiff collections

	Bailiffs
Financial year end 2002–03 (£) collected	510,572
Financial year end 2003–04 (£) collected	1,581,829
Percentage improvement	210

Table 3: Committal action

	Sentences Served
2001–02	0
2002–03	4
2003–04	8

Table 4: Removal of driving licences

	Driving licences withdrawn	*Driving licences suspended*
2001–02	0	3
2002–03	1	7
2003–04	1	9

Committal to prison or disqualification from driving is only considered after all other enforcement options have been attempted or discounted. We use these ultimate sanctions as the final lever to achieve compliance rather than as a punitive measure for those non-resident parents who will not pay.

Child Support Agency

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether attendance allowances and other allowances paid to elected members of local authorities are regarded by the Child Support Agency as income for the purpose of determining the level of child support; and if he will make a statement. [182041]

Mr. Pond: In the old child support scheme, allowances paid to elected members of local authorities are taken into account as income when assessing maintenance liability. The only exception is when these allowances are payments for expenses incurred "wholly, exclusively and necessarily" in performance of their duties.

In the new child support scheme income and allowances paid to elected members of local authorities are disregarded when calculating maintenance.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* days have been disrupted and *(b)* man-hours have been lost at the Belfast Office of the Child Support Agency as a result of the current industrial action of civil servants. [180799]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. David Lidington, dated 14 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* days have been disrupted and *(b)* man hours have been lost at the Belfast Office of the Child Support Agency as a result of the current industrial action of civil servants.

Staff in Belfast are employees of the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency. They provide services, under contract, to the Child Support Agency in Great Britain. The delivery of child support services in Belfast has been partially disrupted on 8.5 days, resulting in the loss of approximately 15,000 man hours between December 2003 to April 2004. The impact on customers has been minimised by management prioritising work and directing resources accordingly.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases handled by the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland have been delayed as a result of the current industrial action by civil servants. [180807]

Mr. Pond: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Doug Smith. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Doug Smith to Mr. David Lidington, dated 14 July 2004:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases handled by the Child Support Agency in Northern Ireland have been delayed as a result of the current industrial action by civil servants.

Staff in Belfast are employees of the Northern Ireland Child Support Agency. My understanding is that managers in Northern Ireland have been able to contain the impact of the current industrial action and do not believe that cases have been delayed directly as a result of it.

Departmental Refurbishments

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs to his Department of refurbishments to buildings have been since 2001. [182078]

Maria Eagle: The available information is in the table.

£ million

	Business-related refurbishment works (non-modernisation programme) [1]	*Modernisation programme works* [2]	*Total*
2001–02	27.483	41.517	69
2002–03	25.819	274.181	300
2003–04	22.932	335.068	358

[1] Business-related refurbishment works are ongoing, internal changes to buildings to meet developing business needs e.g. the removal of partition walls to accommodate organisational moves of staff.

[2] Modernisation Programme works are part of a major programme funded by the Treasury to improve the way in which DWP services are delivered to the public. The physical surroundings of several of the businesses within DWP are being changed, including Jobcentre Plus, The Pensions Service and Debt Management Services. This spend is a combination of new acquisitions, major refurbishments to buildings already part of the estate, as well as the smaller, business-related refurbishment works costs. While the overall cost of the programme is known it is not possible to provide separate figures for refurbishment works.

Note:

Additionally, our private sector partners Land Securities Trillium are responsible for providing an on-going maintenance programme for all buildings on the estate. DWP pays for this as part of the unitary charge for the serviced accommodation it receives at each building and it is not possible to provide separate costs for this.

Disability Leave

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce legislation to support disability leave for those people who develop a disability and need time away from work to adjust and learn new working methods. [182598]

Maria Eagle: Where an employee is covered by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), the provision of disability leave might be a reasonable adjustment for an employer to make. Therefore, we do not consider it necessary to introduce legislation to provide for statutory disability leave.

The Code of Practice on the employment provisions of the DDA, published by the Disability Rights Commission, suggests that allowing time off during working hours for rehabilitation, assessment or treatment is likely to constitute a reasonable adjustment.

Disability Living Allowance (Scotland)

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money was claimed in disability living allowance in Scotland in 2003–04, broken down by local authority. [183112]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is in the table.

Disability living allowance: estimated expenditure for each local authority area in Scotland in 2003–04

£ million

Local authority	Estimated disability living allowance expenditure in 2003–04
Aberdeen City	26
Aberdeenshire	27
Angus	14
Argyll and Bute	12
Clackmannanshire	9
Dumfries and Galloway	24
Dundee City	26
East Ayrshire	23
East Dunbartonshire	12
East Lothian	14
East Renfrewshire	10
City of Edinburgh	57
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (previously Western Isles)	3
Falkirk	25
Fife	57
Glasgow City	149
Highland	27
Inverclyde	17
Midlothian	15
Moray	9
North Ayrshire	25
North Lanarkshire	74
Orkney Islands	2
Perth and Kinross (previously Perthshire and Kinross)	15
Renfrewshire	33
The Scottish Borders	12
Shetland Isles	2
South Ayrshire	18
South Lanarkshire	59
Stirling	14
West Dunbartonshire (previously Dumbarton and Clydebank)	21
West Lothian	31

Note:

Figures derived from the DLA caseload and expenditure in May 2003, August 2003, November 2003 and February 2004, calibrated to the estimated outturn for Great Britain in 2003–04 and rounded to the nearest £ million.

In-patients (Benefit Payments)

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) why the level of benefit payable to in-patients who have been in hospital for more than a year is set at 20 per cent. of the basic state pension; [183162]

(2) what reviews of the level of benefit payable to long-term in-patients have been conducted since it was first set at 20 per cent. of the basic state pension; and what the findings were; [183190]

(3) what assessment was made of the *(a)* therapeutic and *(b)* financial needs of in-patients who have been in hospital over a year when the decision to maintain the level of benefit entitlement at 20 per cent. of the basic state pension was taken; and if he will make a statement; [183191]

(4) what research he has commissioned on the *(a)* economic and *(b)* therapeutic effects of setting the level of benefit payable to long-term in-patients at 20 per cent. of the basic state pension. [183245]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Insurance Advisory Committee (NIAC) originally considered the amount of benefit that should be paid to long-term in-patients in 1949. Although they said that there would be grounds for withholding the whole of benefit because no allowance should be paid for outside commitments, they thought it desirable that benefit should not be reduced below "a reasonable amount for personal needs in hospital". They recommended an amount which was roughly 20 per cent. of the standard rate of state pension. (A higher rate was set for long-term in-patients with respiratory tuberculosis.)

When asked to review the amount of benefit paid to in-patients in 1952, the NIAC recommended that the amount paid to long-term in-patients should be increased to reflect increases in the cost of living. This increased amount continued to represent 20 per cent. of the prevailing rate of state pension.

Changes were introduced in 1988 to abolish the resettlement benefit payable to long-term in-patients without a dependant on discharge, and to reduce the amount payable to dependants of long-term in-patients. The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC), when considering those changes, said that they had received several representations that the level of benefit paid to long-term in-patients (that is, the 20 per cent. of basic state pension) was too low to meet their needs. SSAC said that they had seen no evidence to convince them that the level of benefit should be raised.

The benefit paid to long-term in-patients is to meet their personal day-to-day requirements, such as newspapers, magazines, and toiletry items. It is not intended to cover the purchase of more expensive items such as clothing. That is the responsibility of the local NHS trust.

We have seen no convincing evidence that the current level of benefit is causing long-term in-patients either therapeutic or economic harm.

Mortgage Protection Insurance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has commissioned on the proportion of home owners who have mortgage protection insurance against the risk of unemployment. [183672]

Mr. Pond: The Department jointly commissioned research on mortgage safety-nets and the take-up of different forms of mortgage protection with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Association of British Insurers in 2002.

The research was undertaken by the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York, and the results were published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in April 2004. The research report is entitled "Homeowners Risk and Safety Nets: Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance (MPPI) and beyond" and is available in the Library.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer question number 177435 regarding vulnerable customers (payments by cheque), tabled by the hon. Member for Northavon on 27 May. [183165]

Malcolm Wicks: A reply was given to the hon. Member on 12 July.

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer question number 177395 regarding girocheque payments, tabled by the hon. Member for Northavon on 27 May. [183166]

Mr. Pond: An answer was given to the hon. Member on 12 July.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Accountancy Advice

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst & Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182259]

Mr. Miliband: DfES let two contracts totalling £92,438 in 2001–02 and one contract totalling £18,620 in 2002–03 to PriceWaterhouseCoopers in respect of advice concerning private finance initiative and public private partnership issues.

In 2003–04, three contracts totalling £243,285 were let to KPMG in respect of advice concerning private finance initiative and public private partnership issues.

Bullying

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the average number of school days missed per pupil per year as a result of bullying in the Vale of York in each of the past three years. [176692]

Mr. Miliband: The department only collects the numbers of sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence, and not the reasons why they are missed.

Classroom Assistants

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the proposed introduction of single status on the pay and conditions of classroom teaching assistants; and if he will make a statement; [183136]

(2) whether local education authorities will guarantee the existing pay and conditions of teaching assistants following the introduction of single status for council employees; and if he will make a statement. [183137]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Pay and contractual arrangements of school support staff are matters for local determination: the Government believes that this is the best way of ensuring a flexible system that can respond to local needs and circumstances. Many local authorities are reviewing school support staff pay in the light of the agreement—commonly known as the Single Status Agreement—made in 1997 by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. Local government pay negotiations between employers and Trade Unions will have taken into account the progress of equal pay and pay reviews. Consultation on the 2004 pay proposals is ongoing.

Departmenal Staff

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people have left employment in his Department because of *(a)* anxiety, *(b)* stress, *(c)* depression and *(d)* other mental health reasons in each year since 1997. [175694]

Mr. Charles Clarke: My Department remains committed to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and welfare issues, including the provision of professional counselling, awareness sessions and support from the Department's welfare provider, Care First. This is complemented by internal procedures aimed at ensuring consistent standards of behaviour and enabling fair and prompt mediation in the event of any grievance.

My Department does not maintain records centrally of staff leaving the Department on the basis of anxiety, stress, depression, or other mental health reasons. However, I can confirm that no medical retirement certificates were issued for reasons of "mental disorder" for staff in my Department over the past four years and we have no record of any such retirements prior to that date since 1997.

Departmental Accounting Practice

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who the Finance Director of *(a)* the Department and *(b)* the Office for Standards in Education is; what accountancy qualifications each Director holds; and on how many occasions there has been a qualified opinion on (i) the resource accounts and (ii) other accounts of each in the last five years. [183426]

Mr. Charles Clarke: The Finance Director for the Department for Education and Skills, appointed in January 2004, is Stephen Kershaw. He does not hold a professional accountancy qualification. The Head of the Department's Financial Accounting Division, who reports to Stephen Kershaw, is a fully qualified accountant (FCCA, ACMA).

During the four year period covering the financial years 1999–2000 to 2002–03 for which accounts have been published, the DfES Resource Accounts were qualified in two years. The qualifications related to the following accounts:

In 2000–01 the Teachers' Pensions Scheme Resource Account received a technical qualification due to a limitation of the scope of the audit. This same issue resulted in the qualification of the cash based Teachers' Superannuation Appropriation Accounts.

In 2001–02 the DfES Resource Accounts were qualified as a result of the allegations of fraud and irregular payments under the Individual Learning Accounts programme. In the same year the Teachers' Pensions Resource Account was qualified because expenditure exceeded the budget by 0.98 per cent. as a result of late changes in accounting policies.

The Office for Standards in Education's (Ofsted) Director of Strategy and Resources, Robert Green, is currently designated Finance Director. He does not hold an accountancy qualification. Ofsted's Senior Civil Service level Head of Finance reports to the Director, Strategy and Resources, and holds the FCMA qualification.

Ofsted's Resource Accounts for 2002–03 were qualified in relation to a resource overspend of 1 per cent. No other accounts have been qualified in the past five years.

The audit opinion on the DfES and Ofsted 2003–04 Resource Accounts will be available later in the year.

E-learning Credits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received about the use of e-learning credits for purchasing hardware and computer peripherals. [183210]

Mr. Charles Clarke *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* There have been a range of representations from individuals, schools, education authorities and from industry. The majority have been supportive of the policy for e-learning credits (eLCs) to provide schools with £330 million (2002–06) for the purchase of high quality digital learning materials. Some have argued, however, that there should be more flexibility over what eLCs can be used to purchase, but many believe it is too early to change the eligibility guidance.

We are therefore continuing discussions about the future of eLCs and keeping the funding criteria under constant review.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will extend the education maintenance allowance to all full-time 16 to 19-year-old students regardless of family income. [184035]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to do so. We are targeting EMA on young people who most need help to overcome financial barriers. Paying EMA to all young people in further education would increase the costs of the scheme by more than £220 million every year from when the scheme is fully rolled out.

Education Statements

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much Gloucestershire county council has spent on statementing children in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what the figures are for other shire counties; and if he will make a statement. [168062]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 23 April 2004]:* The Department began collecting this information only in the 2004–05 financial year. The budget data for this year is being validated currently. I will write again to the hon. Member once this data is available.

Education Statistics (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on supply teachers by *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough in each year since 1997; and what the average figures for a local education authority in England were in each year. [172803]

Mr. Miliband: The information is available for the 2002–03 financial year only and is contained within the following table:

Expenditure on supply teachers in primary and secondary schools in London LEAs in 2002–03

£000

	Amount spent on supply teachers	
	Primary	*Secondary*
Barking/Dagenham	4,125	2,304
Barnet	2,868	2,445
Bexley	3,481	2,985
Brent	3,016	2,101
Bromley	2,816	1,363
Camden	1,839	1,474
Croydon	3,561	2,305
Ealing	3,281	2,292
Enfield	3,890	3,255
Greenwich	4,040	2,645
Hackney	4,941	1,961
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,680	1,172
Haringey	3,341	2,155
Harrow	2,967	1,579
Havering	2,592	2,413
Hillingdon	2,834	2,783
Hounslow	3,586	2,621
Islington	3,841	2,157
Kensington and Chelsea	1,287	881
Kingston	1,143	724
Lambeth	3,671	2,046
Lewisham	3,198	1,976
Merton	2,486	1,193
Newham	8,518	4,614
Redbridge	2,364	1,680
Richmond	1,147	1,463
Southwark	5,358	1,983
Sutton	1,982	1,101
Tower hamlets	7,267	2,823
Waltham Forest	4,143	2,508
Wandsworth	2,335	1,051
Westminster	2,176	2,353
England average (mean)	3,172	2,110

Notes:

Consistent Financial Reporting 2002–03, calculated by summing the fields E02 (supply teaching staff employed directly by the school), E10 (Supply teacher insurance) and E26 (Agency supply teaching staff) minus I10 (Receipts from supply teacher insurance claims).

Entrepreneurship Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what efforts his Department is making to enhance entrepreneurship skills training in UK schools. [183310]

Mr. Charles Clarke: 171 Enterprise Pathfinder projects were approved to start during 2003–04, embracing nearly 500 secondary schools. A further 87 Pathfinders have just been approved, such that a total of over 700 secondary schools will be involved from this September. The new Enterprise Adviser service is working alongside head teachers in almost 1,000 schools in the most disadvantaged areas. All of this effort is leading to the production of national guidance to show schools the most effective ways of teaching enterprise. From September 2005 new funding of £60 million per annum will support a new focus on enterprise education in secondary schools. In particular the new resources will allow for an Enterprise Education entitlement to provide all Key Stage 4 pupils with the equivalent of five days' enterprise activity, which develops enterprise capability—innovation, creativity, risk-management and risk-taking, and financial and business understanding.

Exam Pass Marks

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what changes there have been to pass marks in *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A levels since 1997. [183341]

Mr. Miliband: Responsibility for the marking and grading of examinations in England lies with the three Unitary Awarding Bodies. The awarding bodies are regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and are accountable to the QCA for their performance which includes fulfilling the obligations placed on them by a Code of Practice. The code requires awarding bodies to follow common mechanisms for marking and awarding grades. Ken Boston, the Chief Executive of QCA will write to the hon. Member providing details of the mechanisms for marking and awarding grades since 1997 and a copy of the letter and the Code of Practice will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

FE Colleges

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students were offered places in further education colleges for 2003–04; how many students took up places at further education colleges in 2003–04; and how many students dropped out of further education colleges during the academic year 2003–04. [183642]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of people offered places by further education colleges is not held centrally. The numbers of learners on Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded Further Education (FE) provision are shown in the statistical first release (SFR) series, "Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Numbers in England", published in the LSC website: http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/SectorData/StatisticalFirstReleases/default.htm.

As the academic year has not yet ended, learner numbers for the whole of 2003/04 are not available. However, at 1 November 2003, 2.15 million learners were enrolled on LSC funded FE provision (Source: ILR/SFR03). The corresponding figure for November 2002 was 2.18 million and for 2002/03 as a whole there was a total of 3.91 million learners enrolled on LSC funded FE (Source: ILR/SFR02).

Learner outcomes data (success, retention and achievement rates) in LSC funded FE are published in the LSC SFR series "Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England", also available on the LSC website. Retention data for 2003/04 are not yet available. However, in 2002/03, the overall retention rate in LSC funded FE was 83 per cent. (Source: ILR/SFR04).

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether all further education colleges in the Devon and Cornwall Learning Skills Council region have received their funding allocation for 2004–05; and how many of these allocations were received *(a)* before and *(b)* after 31 May. [183750]

Alan Johnson: The Department allocates funds for education and training in the post-16 learning and skills sector to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The timing of funding allocations to colleges is an operational matter and is the responsibility of the LSC. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether all people in the Devon and Cornwall Learning Skills Council region who wish to study for a basic skills qualification in a further education college in academic year 2004–05 are guaranteed a place; and if he will make a statement. [183760]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. I have therefore asked Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Lady with the information requested and to place a copy of his reply in the Library.

HEIF2

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget is for the HEIF2; and what the criteria will be for applying for funding. [183646]

Alan Johnson: HEIF is a jointly funded programme by OST and DfES. The total budget for HEIF2 is £187 million for years 2004–05 and 2005–06. The DfES share is £56 million.

All higher education institutions funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England were eligible to apply for funding to support activities which will increase their capability to respond to the needs of business (including companies of all sizes and sectors, and other bodies in the wider community), where this will lead to identifiable economic benefits. The detailed application process for HEIF2 is contained in the guidance document published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Higher Education

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students in higher education come from families where the household income is *(a)* under £10,000, *(b)* between £10,001 and £20,000, *(c)* between £20,001 and £30,000, *(d)* between £30,001 and £50,000 and *(e)* above £50,000. [183621]

Alan Johnson: Data are not available centrally in the format requested.

However, limited data are available which show that of those students eligible for student support, 85 per cent. are dependent students, of which, 35 per cent. have a parental residual income of less than £20,480; 17 per cent. have a parental residual income between £20,480 and £30,501; and 48 per cent. have a parental residual income of £30,502 or more.

Similarly, independent students eligible for student support account for 15 per cent. of the overall student population, of which, 88 per cent. have a spouse/partner residual income of less than £17,615; 4 per cent. have a spouse/partner residual income between £17,615 and £26,055; and 8 per cent. have a spouse/partner residual income of £26,045 or more.

These figures are for the Academic Year 2002/03 and are the latest available outturn. They are one of the data sources that have been used to produce forecasts of the percentage of students likely to receive the grants being introduced in 2004/05 and 2006/07. These forecasts also take into account the changes to the income definition used in the means test from 2004/05.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of young people entering higher education in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [183644]

Alan Johnson: Estimates of the percentage of young people entering higher education in 2005 and 2006 are not available.

The planned number of student places is set during spending reviews in the light of the Government's target of increasing participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 17 to 30 by the end of the decade. Planned student numbers for 2005–06 to 2007–08 will be set as part of the current spending review.

Independent/State Sector Co-operation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how the funds allocated to increase co-operation between independent and state schools will be spent. [183637]

Mr. Miliband: Most of the £1.6 million funding for the current year has already been allocated, with 46 new partnerships sharing £1.4 million over the next two years. In addition, 30 of the 47 partnerships awarded funding in 2003 will continue to receive some support. The remaining budget will be used to provide a low level of continuing support for a number of more established partnerships; pilot new developments; and evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme.

In 2005–06 the budget for the scheme will rise to £2 million, and will be similarly distributed.

Medical Student Admissions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding he is providing to universities for the 2004–05 academic year to enable them to admit medical students with an A-level points score of under three C grades; which universities are in receipt of such funding under the improved retention scheme; and how many students will be admitted as a result. [183413]

Alan Johnson: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is allocating £159 million for the 2004–05 academic year to institutions to improve retention of full-time students based on the students' profile and an assessment of the risks of students failing to complete their studies. The institutions set out as follows are receiving part of their funding from this exercise as a result of the recent profile of their medical students.

Across these institutions, £21,950 in additional funding was allocated on the basis of an estimate of around 80 full-time medical students on courses leading to registration with the General Medical Council and subsequent practice as a doctor who are under 21 years of age with a point score of less than the equivalent of three Cs at A-level.

University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Durham
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
Imperial College
Kings College London
Queen Mary, University of London
St. George's Hospital Medical School
University College, London
University of Manchester
University of Newcastle
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of Warwick

Overseas Students

Mr. Tim Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average length of time of study was for overseas students in UK universities in the last period for which figures are available. [178214]

Alan Johnson: Latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show that, in 2002/03, the estimated average length of study of full-time overseas students at UK HE Institutions was three years for undergraduates, and just under two years for postgraduates.

Partnership for Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of the Partnership for Church of England Schools was to his Department in the last financial year. [182509]

Mr. Miliband: £780,550 was paid in the last financial year as investment in the company. DfES also made a grant of £20,834 towards the cost of a local Diocesan Scheme Manager in one of the regions covered by the first group of projects.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people are to be employed by Partnership for Schools; and what progress has been made in their recruitment. [182507]

Mr. Miliband: It is envisaged that Partnerships for Schools will employ 50 to 60 staff. Most of these will be employees, although some will be secondees from public and private sectors.

The process for recruiting the chair, members of the board and chief executives is currently in progress. Interviews and decisions on various other senior posts below this level are also being finalised. These recruitments are all being undertaken in accordance with the Nolan rules.

Further recruitment will be undertaken by Partnerships for Schools under the guidance of the DfES Recruitment Team, taking into account the requirements of the Gershon and Lyons reviews. Processes to deal with this have been set up.

Pay Systems

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library the most recent review of *(a)* his Department's pay systems, *(b)* the pay systems of the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible and *(c)* the departmental equal pay action plan. [181345]

Mr. Charles Clarke: In 2003, my Department agreed a three-year pay settlement to 2005 that completes the pay modernisation identified by the Department's review of gender pay equality. My officials have produced a report about this review and are in the process of discussing the findings and action taken with the Cabinet Office. Once discussions are concluded, we will place a copy of the report in the Library of the House. The annual accounts of all Non-Departmental Public Bodies, including general information on pay, are place in the Library of the House.

Post-school Education

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils went on to *(a)* university education, *(b)* a further education college and *(c)* vocational courses from each local education authority area in the last year for which figures are available. [183620]

Mr. Miliband: Tables showing *(a)* latest information on the proportion of 18-year-olds entering Higher Education and *(b)* the percentages of 16-year-olds participating in education and training will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

The HE figures show the proportion of students who gain places in HE at age 18, and so will not include those who enter at 19 or over. This participation measure differs from the HE Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR), which measures progress towards the Government's aim of having 50 per cent. participation of 17 to 30-year-olds in HE by 2010. The latest HEIPR figure for 2002–03 is 44 per cent., but it is not calculated at LEA level.

The percentage of young people participating in full-time education in further education colleges is the sum of participation in sixth form colleges and other FE colleges.

A breakdown by type of course is not available by LEA. Work-based learning programmes include vocational courses. Participation in full and part-time education will also include learners on vocational courses.

Many young people participating in full-time education at age 16 and 17 go on to higher education at 18 so will appear in both the HE and participation in education and training figures.

There were additional entrants at older ages in education and training but data on this group of people are not available.

Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what contingency plans his Department has in place should a major contractor under a private finance initiative schools contract become bankrupt or otherwise unable to maintain its contractual obligations; and if he will make a statement. [183009]

Mr. Miliband: Most PFI deals involve stand-alone special purpose vehicles (SPVs) with other investors and contractors, plus bank financing. It is a usual feature of PFI projects that the banks have the opportunity to step in and find a new contractor in the event of insolvency and we would expect the banks to do this. My Department is not party to schools PFI contracts; these are between the local authority and the relevant consortium. Officials are ready to assist and advise local authorities if this should prove necessary.

Pupil Funding

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what he expects the per pupil funding level to be for *(a)* schools, *(b)* sixth forms and *(c)* further education colleges in the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills council region in (i) 2004–05, (ii) 2006–06 and (iii) 2006–07. [182338]

Mr. Miliband: The total funding per pupil for schools in cash terms for 2004–05 in the Greater Manchester LSC area is £3,960.

The Further Education funding system is different from schools. Funding is paid for learning aims as well as an entitlement per 16–18 payment. Under the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) funding formula the basic cost to the public purse of delivering three A-levels in a sixth form college and a further education college to a student in the 2004–05 academic year will be £3,045. This figure comprises £766 for the delivery of each A-level learning aim, and £747 for each student for the entitlement element of their learning programme. Under the LSC's funding formula the basic cost to the public purse of delivering three A-levels to a student at an English maintained secondary school will be £3,212. This figure comprises £785 for the delivery of each A-level learning aim, £750 for each student for the entitlement element of their learning programme, and £107 for each student to meet additional employers1 contributions to teachers1 pensions.

These figures do not represent all funding that colleges and sixth forms receive and are not directly comparable. For example the further education funding rates include consolidated funds for pay and staff training that are not reflected in the school sixth form rates. Also, in each case additional funding may also be available to take account of the higher costs of delivering learning in particular geographical areas, in higher cost subjects, or to students with particular disadvantages or individual needs.

The LSC has yet to publish its rates for 2005–06 and 2006–07 is yet to be announced.

Notes:

1. 2004–05 figures are provisional estimates as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited and will be changing in the near future so please pass on this warning.

2. Figures reflect education Standard Spending Assessment/ Education Formula Spending settlement (all sub-blocks). Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES

departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to Education Formula Spending pupils aged 3 to19.

3. Figures exclude Education Maintenance Allowances and grants not allocated at LEA level

4. The pupil numbers used are those underlying the Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending settlement calculations plus PLASC three year olds maintained pupils and estimated three to four year olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the Standard Spending Assessment pupil numbers.

5. Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10 so may not sum.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 785W, on pupil referral units, for what reasons the separate identification of costs of pupil referral units ended in 2002–03; and what the costs of pupil referral units were for *(a)* 2000–01 and *(b)* 2001–02 as set out in the s52 returns of local education authorities. [179588]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 21 June 2004]*: The way in which the Department collected s52 outturn data changed fundamentally in the 2002–03 financial year to align with the Consistent Financial Reporting Framework.

Local authority and other interests were fully consulted on the change. The costs of pupil referral units for 2000–01 and 2001–02 are contained in the following table:

	Net expenditure on pupil referral units (£)	
LEA name	*2001–02*	*2002–03*
Barking and Dagenham	256,353	626,962
Barnet	956,861	934,820
Barnsley	72,859	295,560
Bath and NE Somerset	0	41,187
Bedfordshire	1,012,918	1,045,613
Bexley	979,000	1,084,000
Birmingham	4,335,165	4,164,667
Blackburn with Darwen	1,136,576	1,237,415
Blackpool	502,225	489,145
Bolton	171,381	346,056
Bournemouth	104,501	371,249
Bracknell Forest	293,967	291,052
Bradford	990,625	1,631,910
Brent	442,000	515,000
Brighton and Hove	444,661	110,016
Bristol City of	289,064	414,649
Bromley	639,494	894,100
Buckinghamshire	1,226,200	1,377,614
Bury	824,163	1,008,091
Calderdale	218,638	164,984
Cambridgeshire	524,973	150,668
Camden	1,107,332	1,220,402
Cheshire	0	0
Cornwall	0	0
Coventry	89,467	156,490
Croydon	2,027,317	2,564,666
Cumbria	1,293,660	1,641,913
Darlington	239,990	318,678
Derby	834,467	728,655
Derbyshire	884,583	957,168
Devon	253,395	400,287
Doncaster	795,013	788,753
Dorset	563,044	500,604
Dudley	652,011	769,193
Durham	323,250	210,292
Ealing	761,002	978,222
East Riding of Yorkshire	345,197	334,145
East Sussex	550,636	408,799
Enfield	400,301	626,091
Essex	1,546,136	1,792,334
Gateshead	416,110	403,704
Gloucestershire	545,872	491,646
Greenwich	2,135,410	2,277,670
Hackney	869,833	662,789
Halton	0	5,212
Hammersmith and Fulham	906,197	1,082,802
Hampshire	2,153,000	2,499,000
Haringey	482,202	574,753
Harrow	214,632	283,144
Hartlepool	276,309	399,758
Havering	499,246	541,237
Herefordshire	372,080	572,935
Hertfordshire	1,680,195	1,642,390
Hillingdon	367,764	338,100
Hounslow	754,546	631,232
Isle of Wight	119,539	0
Islington	989,084	750,304
Kensington and Chelsea	874,764	796,707
Kent	5,134,626	4,845,332
Kingston upon Hull City of	1,179,173	1,322,601

	Net expenditure on pupil referral units (£)	
Kingston upon Thames	355,398	221,861
Kirklees	548,100	500,900
Knowsley	233,316	247,729
Lambeth	1,015,941	1,247,195
Lancashire	4,258,278	3,901,387
Leeds	1,405,145	1,165,380
Leicester	0	475,649
Leicestershire	0	0
Lewisham	1,006,651	1,429,900
Lincolnshire	1,308,411	1,276,954
Liverpool	771,441	943,220
Luton	351,769	295,017
Manchester	231,172	186,304
Medway	1,059,800	980,964
Merton	0	0
Middlesbrough	0	0
Milton Keynes	177,626	256,980
Newcastle upon Tyne	467,138	510,329
Newham	1,075,281	633,297
Norfolk	1,531,306	1,646,478
North East Lincolnshire	421,680	574,988
North Lincolnshire	483,095	698,913
North Somerset	219,807	461,158
North Tyneside	339,754	365,134
North Yorkshire	479,691	485,199
Northamptonshire	1,427,146	1,372,747
Northumberland	264,279	219,583
Nottingham	580,455	597,443
Nottinghamshire	679,357	623,335
Oldham	0	0
Oxfordshire	908,462	1,022,319
Peterborough	590,477	472
Plymouth	656,295	812,111
Poole	75,635	343,022
Portsmouth	491,975	618,188
Reading	189,380	228,431
Redbridge	316,385	339,324
Redcar and Cleveland	331,701	362,830
Richmond upon Thames	0	1,611
Rochdale	0	0
Rotherham	874,830	709,279
Rutland	0	0
Salford	354,695	312,637
Sandwell	1,146,499	1,156,454
Sefton	669,060	640,528
Sheffield	716,861	1,253,769
Shropshire	52,883	55,663
Slough	167,947	328,348
Solihull	323,000	420,304
Somerset	696,095	807,046
South Gloucestershire	542,000	889,388
South Tyneside	625,044	729,054
Southampton	1,447,118	1,723,526
Southend-on-Sea	0	0
Southwark	1,506,381	1,720,783
St. Helens	716,680	689,798
Staffordshire	1,238,656	586,574
Stockport	829,142	811,183
Stockton-on-Tees	522,559	670,245
Stoke-on-Trent	189,033	187,119
Suffolk	1,418,739	1,854,077
Sunderland	923,148	933,872
Surrey	2,843,848	2,606,503
Sutton	226,672	272,049
Swindon	647,876	770,853
Tameside	241,356	215,322
Telford and Wrekin	108,705	129,289
Thurrock	416,119	415,650
Torbay	230,413	266,164
Tower Hamlets	1,743,959	1,504,112
Trafford	0	0
Wakefield	1,167,222	1,155,335
Walsall	56,074	47,424
Waltham Forest	206,822	144,893
Wandsworth	886,355	973,369
Warrington	0	0
Warwickshire	1,173,830	1,421,026
West Berkshire	267,912	366,435
West Sussex	637,617	906,926
Westminster	0	0
Wigan	0	0
Wiltshire	821,864	725,843
Windsor and Maidenhead	161,598	339,507
Wirral	563,918	615,679
Wokingham	0	0
Wolverhampton	1,161,935	1,295,038
Worcestershire	1,361,711	1,397,978
York	21,057	425,032

Notes:

1. The financial data are taken from local education authorities' Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table 1) submitted to the DfES.
2. Includes all expenditure on the provision of education at Pupil Referral Units (as defined in section 19 of the Education Act 1996).
3. Includes all School Standards Grant income and expenditure in relation to Pupil Referral Units.

School Building

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what indication he has given to local education authorities of the capital allocations available to schools that are not participating in Pathfinder or Phase 1 of Building Schools for the Future. [182510]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All authorities and schools have now been given details of their allocation of capital for 2005–06, with the exception of the relatively small Targeted Capital Fund where we aim to make announcements in the autumn. We will also hope to announce details in the autumn of the major capital funding programmes for authorities and schools for the 2004 spending review period to 2007–08, in line with government policy to give authorities three-year certainty on 85 per cent. of their funding so that they can plan strategically to invest to achieve greater value for money.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 710W, on schools (capital investment), what the capital budget is for *(a)* the pathfinder phase and *(b)* wave one of Building Schools for the Future. [182515]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is not a separate budget for the pathfinder projects. They and the other projects announced in February are all part of wave one, due to start in 2005–06, and which has an overall budget of £2.2 million.

School Finance

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the 20 local authorities that received the lowest amount from public funds on average per child for the education of school age children in 2003–04. [181796]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is contained within the following table:

The 20 LEAs with the lowest total funding per pupil aged 3 to15 years for 2003–04

£

LEA	Total funding per pupil
Bath and North East Somerset	3,310
Cheshire	3,310
Derbyshire	3,350
Dorset	3,320
Dudley	3,340
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,330
Gloucestershire	3,370
Leicestershire	3,200
North Somerset	3,360
Nottinghamshire	3,330
Poole	3,270
Solihull	3,370
South Gloucestershire	3,220
Staffordshire	3,260
Stockport	3,330
Suffolk	3,340
Swindon	3,380
Warrington	3,260
Worcestershire	3,270
York	3,270

Notes:

1. Figures reflect Education Formula Spending Share (EFSS) settlement (all sub-blocks). Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to EFSS pupils aged 3 to 15.
2. Education Formula Spending Shares give all local education authorities the same funding for equivalent pupils plus top-ups for deprivation, for the higher costs of recruiting and retaining staff in some areas, and for sparsity. DfES grants are mainly distributed to LEAs on a per pupil/per school basis with some weighting to take account of relative deprivation or low attainment where that reflects the grant objectives.
3. Figures exclude EMAs and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used are those underlying the EFSS settlement calculations plus Pupil Level Annual School Censors 3-year-olds maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. 2003–04 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.
6. Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest 10 so may not sum.

School Leavers (Greater London)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which local education authority in Greater London had the highest number of school leavers attending university in each year since 1996; and what percentage this represented of the *(a)* total number of school leavers and *(b)* total number of school leavers in that local education authority; [177182]

(2) which local education authority in Greater London had the highest number of people attending university in each year since 1996; [177183]

(3) how many people attended university from *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* each local education authority in Greater London in each year since 1997; and what percentage this represents of the number of school leavers. [177184]

Alan Johnson: The available information is taken from the Universities and Colleges Admissions service (UCAS) and covers 18-year-old applicants accepted through UCAS to full-time first degree and HND courses. Figures are given in the tables.

Table 1: English domiciled applicants accepted for entry to HE through UCAS

	Year of entry						
LEA	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Barking	292	481	497	517	517	592	714	724
Barnet	2,325	2,653	2,643	2,643	2,727	2,809	2,870	2,768
Bexley	801	897	926	817	961	990	1,032	1,091
Brent	2,027	2,288	2,176	2,387	2,444	2,415	2,479	2,387
Bromley	1,446	1,696	1,688	1,638	1,714	1,807	1,849	1,794
Camden	1,383	1,296	1,167	1,139	1,252	1,266	1,218	1,254
City of London	44	25	38	72	59	104	128	223
Croydon	1,869	1,969	1,903	2,011	2,224	2,200	2,194	2,331
Ealing	1,823	2,161	2,130	2,337	2,378	2,476	2,600	2,433
Enfield	1,605	1,805	1,687	1,780	1,768	1,884	1,981	1,959
Greenwich	945	1,019	989	1,021	1,049	1,233	1,129	1,373
Hackney	867	1,249	1,174	1,229	1,246	1,386	1,374	1,321
Hammersmith and Fulham	870	963	849	876	886	967	970	977
Haringey	1,300	1,565	1,550	1,535	1,541	1,546	1,549	1,636
Harrow	1,709	1,875	1,841	1,999	2,025	2,131	2,173	2,234
Havering	747	836	796	844	859	914	832	855
Hillingdon	1,049	1,192	1,231	1,219	1,315	1,389	1,538	1,548
Hounslow	1,291	1,415	1,429	1,424	1,635	1,560	1,610	1,635
Islington	662	976	961	973	1,063	1,053	1,028	1,087
Kensington and Chelsea	922	1,041	925	960	958	980	983	910
Kingston Upon Thames	876	938	948	945	996	1,113	1,191	1,162
Lambeth	1,387	1,577	1,511	1,591	1,628	1,794	1,836	1,808
Lewisham	1,096	1,370	1,291	1,295	1,428	1,511	1,545	1,614
Merton	1,158	1,144	1,048	1,157	1,149	1,201	1,241	1,260
Newham	1,235	1,625	1,689	1,948	1,938	2,191	2,127	2,194
Redbridge	1,581	1,708	1,705	1,731	1,931	2,061	2,187	2,169
Richmond Upon Thames	1,035	1,237	1,306	1,216	1,170	1,278	1,207	1,268
Southwark	1,165	1,375	1,394	1,501	1,476	1,607	1,758	1,779
Sutton	855	935	914	907	957	1,024	1,096	1,053

Table 1: English domiciled applicants accepted for entry to HE through UCAS

LEA	Year of entry 1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Tower Hamlets	768	810	865	949	1,085	1,158	1199	1,201
Waltham Forest	1,031	1,322	1,295	1,322	1,379	1,473	1,527	1,555
Wandsworth	988	1,550	1,484	1,509	1,474	1,559	1,544	1,568
Westminster	783	1,110	1,082	1,029	1,033	1,082	1,157	1,025
Total Greater London[1]	37,935	44,103	43,132	44,521	46,265	48,754	49,866	50,196

[1] Figures exclude those domiciles of unknown LEA

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Table 2: Percentage of 18-year-olds accepted for entry to HE through UCAS

LEA	Year of entry 1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Barking	6.1	10.2	9.8	9.4	10.3	11.4	13.6	12.9
Barnet	30.1	32.1	30.5	28.7	30.1	31.9	32.3	30.4
Bexley	18.3	17.3	18.8	15.9	18.1	18.3	20.3	19.8
Brent	23.2	26.5	25.6	28.4	29.2	30.7	34.2	29.9
Bromley	26.5	27.0	27.5	27.4	28.7	31.3	33.0	29.3
Camden	24.5	18.8	16.9	18.5	19.6	18.6	20.3	20.2
City of London[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croydon	23.2	22.3	22.4	22.6	24.8	25.2	24.8	25.3
Ealing	21.8	23.8	23.4	26.3	26.5	27.7	29.4	27.7
Enfield	23.5	24.9	24.1	25.7	26.8	28.4	30.9	30.2
Greenwich	43.0	13.1	11.8	13.0	12.6	14.5	14.3	16.4
Hackney	8.1	11.2	10.4	11.3	12.0	14.0	12.2	12.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	21.4	18.0	17.1	18.8	17.7	20.4	19.6	21.0
Haringey	15.9	17.6	17.5	18.3	19.2	18.0	20.4	21.7
Harrow	32.3	32.4	33.2	34.1	34.3	38.2	39.4	41.5
Havering	16.5	16.2	15.0	16.9	17.3	19.0	15.5	16.8
Hillingdon	19.8	20.2	22.0	21.4	22.1	23.5	27.0	25.3
Hounslow	21.5	22.6	23.4	21.5	25.5	25.6	27.4	27.2
Islington	9.5	12.3	13.5	12.7	16.1	16.3	16.1	15.0
Kensington and Chelsea	26.0	22.1	18.8	18.7	18.9	19.2	19.9	17.5
Kingston Upon Thames	27.5	27.8	27.5	26.1	28.6	31.5	32.6	30.0
Lambeth	12.8	13.4	13.3	12.9	14.7	15.7	17.0	16.3
Lewisham	14.5	16.3	14.2	13.7	16.1	15.6	16.7	18.6
Merton	23.6	22.4	22.1	24.2	22.9	22.9	26.4	25.0
Newham	11.6	14.8	15.4	16.9	18.1	20.1	19.2	20.1
Redbridge	25.8	27.3	27.6	27.1	31.0	31.9	34.9	34.7
Richmond Upon Thames	31.8	31.9	31.1	29.5	29.6	32.4	30.3	30.7
Southwark	10.3	12.6	11.2	14.1	13.5	14.8	15.7	18.3
Sutton	24.7	25.1	26.0	24.6	26.6	27.7	30.6	29.4
Tower Hamlets	10.6	9.8	10.8	11.5	13.3	14.6	14.6	14.8
Waltham Forest	14.4	18.7	17.4	18.5	20.1	21.0	21.6	22.8
Wandsworth	15.7	20.8	18.8	21.0	21.7	23.9	23.6	23.4
Westminster	13.9	17.0	16.7	16.2	14.3	16.2	17.0	14.5
Total Greater London	19.6	20.7	20.3	20.6	21.8	23.0	23.9	23.6

[1] The effect of year-on-year fluctuations on a small population mean this method of calculating participation rates is unreliable for the City of London.

Truancy

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average truancy rate for secondary schools was in each year since 1997, *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by local education authority. [175833]

Mr. Miliband *[holding answer 25 May 2004]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

The table shows, for each local education authority and England, the percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence from 1998 to present.

Pupil absence in maintained secondary schools in England and local education authority

		Percentage half days missed due to unauthorised absence 1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
301	Barking and Dagenham	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.9
302	Barnet	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.0
370	Barnsley	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.4
800	Bath and North East Somerset	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.8

Pupil absence in maintained secondary schools in England and local education authority

		Percentage half days missed due to unauthorised absence					
		1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
820	Bedfordshire	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
303	Bexley	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.7
330	Birmingham	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5
889	Blackburn with Darwen	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3
890	Blackpool	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.4
350	Bolton	1.8	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
837	Bournemouth	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
867	Bracknell Forest	0.5	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9
380	Bradford	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.4	2.6
304	Brent	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.9
846	Brighton and Hove	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.5
801	Bristol, City of	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1
305	Bromley	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.1
825	Buckinghamshire	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
351	Bury	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
381	Calderdale	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
873	Cambridgeshire	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
202	Camden	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.6
875	Cheshire	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
908	Cornwall	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
331	Coventry	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0
306	Croydon	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1
909	Cumbria	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
841	Darlington	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.1
831	Derby City	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.3
830	Derbyshire	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
878	Devon	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
371	Doncaster	2.1	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.6
835	Dorset	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5
332	Dudley	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.9
840	Durham	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7
307	Ealing	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7
845	East Sussex	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3
308	Enfield	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
881	Essex	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
390	Gateshead	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.0
916	Gloucestershire	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
203	Greenwich	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.4
204	Hackney	2.2	2.6	2.2	3.1	2.6	2.1
876	Halton	1.2	1.5	1.6	2.0	2.5	2.2
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.7
850	Hampshire	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1
309	Haringey	1.9	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.1
310	Harrow	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5
805	Hartlepool	2.6	2.0	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.7
311	Havering	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
884	Herefordshire	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8
919	Hertfordshire	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.7
312	Hillingdon	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.6
313	Hounslow	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0
921	Isle of Wight	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
420	Isles of Scilly	0.4	1.0	0.1	0.0	—	—
206	Islington	2.7	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.5
207	Kensington and Chelsea	2.4	2.4	1.8	2.4	1.9	1.7
886	Kent	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	3.7	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.7	2.4
314	Kingston upon Thames	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5
382	Kirklees	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2
340	Knowsley	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8
208	Lambeth	1.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.6
888	Lancashire	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
383	Leeds	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9
856	Leicester City	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.6
855	Leicestershire	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2
209	Lewisham	2.6	2.5	2.9	3.5	2.7	2.4
925	Lincolnshire	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
341	Liverpool	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.7
201	London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
821	Luton	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.8
352	Manchester	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7
887	Medway	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.8

Pupil absence in maintained secondary schools in England and local education authority

		Percentage half days missed due to unauthorised absence					
		1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
315	Merton	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.3
806	Middlesbrough	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.0
826	Milton Keynes	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.3
316	Newham	3.2	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.1	1.6
926	Norfolk	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0
812	North East Lincolnshire	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.7
813	North Lincolnshire	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9
802	North Somerset	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.1
392	North Tyneside	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9
815	North Yorkshire	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
928	Northamptonshire	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1
929	Northumberland	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3
892	Nottingham City	3.9	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.4
891	Nottinghamshire	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.5
353	Oldham	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.6
931	Oxfordshire	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1
874	Peterborough City	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.9
879	Plymouth	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
836	Poole	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
851	Portsmouth	1.9	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.4
870	Reading	1.4	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.2	2.0
317	Redbridge	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7
807	Redcar and Cleveland	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.0
318	Richmond upon Thames	1.0	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.1
354	Rochdale	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.4
372	Rotherham	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.3
857	Rutland	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
355	Salford	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.2
333	Sandwell	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.6
343	Sefton	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
373	Sheffield	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.0
893	Shropshire	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
871	Slough	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.5
334	Solihull	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8
933	Somerset	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
803	South Gloucestershire	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.2
393	South Tyneside	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7
852	Southampton	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2
882	Southend-on-Sea	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.3
210	Southwark	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
342	St. Helens	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1
860	Staffordshire	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
356	Stockport	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8
808	Stockton on Tees	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7
861	Stoke on Trent	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.5
935	Suffolk	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.1
394	Sunderland	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
936	Surrey	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0
319	Sutton	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.7
866	Swindon	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7
35	Tameside	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.4
894	Telford and Wrekin	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5
883	Thurrock	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.6
880	Torbay	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.5
211	Tower Hamlets	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.0
358	Trafford	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6
384	Wakefield	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0
335	Walsall	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9
320	Waltham Forest	2.3	1.8	1.4	2.0	1.7	1.4
212	Wandsworth	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.7	1.3	1.1
877	Warrington	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
937	Warwickshire	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
869	West Berkshire	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
938	West Sussex	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
213	Westminster, City of	3.2	3.9	3.1	2.4	1.8	1.6
359	Wigan	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6
865	Wiltshire	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
344	Wirral	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
872	Wokingham	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.6
336	Wolverhampton	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2

Pupil absence in maintained secondary schools in England and local education authority

		Percentage half days missed due to unauthorised absence					
		1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
885	Worcestershire	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8
816	York, City of	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
	England	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children played truant during the last 12 months at schools in the London Borough of Wandsworth. [179040]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is as follows:

Number of pupils that missed at least a half day due to unauthorised absence in schools in London Borough of Wandsworth Local Education Authority

	Academic year (September to May) 2003
Primary schools	2,831
Secondary schools	2,322

UKeU

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to compensate universities who are owed money by UKeU. [183648]

Alan Johnson: UK eUniversities Worldwide (UKeU) is currently in discussions with its creditors, including some Higher Education institutions. The Higher Education Funding Council for England is monitoring the situation.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research he has undertaken into the failure of UKeU; and what future plans he has for the UKeU. [183649]

Alan Johnson: UK eUniversities Worldwide (UkeU) is being wound-down, as announced by the higher Education Funding Council for England on 18 June 2004. Some activities, notably the eChina Project and the e-Learning Research Centre will continue and have been transferred already from UkeU. I understand that the Higher Education Funding Council for England has asked the e-Learning Research Centre to examine the eUniversities experience and disseminate its findings throughout the sector.

University Teaching

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage more graduates to undertake a career in university teaching. [183619]

Alan Johnson: The responsibility for recruiting university teaching staff lies with Higher Education Institutions, as the employers.

However, the Department has implemented a 'Golden Hello' programme of funding to encourage new entrants into teaching shortage subjects, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Each Golden Hello is worth £9,000 over three years to an individual.

Vocational Course Drop-outs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the drop-out rates on vocational courses were in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2003. [183645]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Drop-out and retention rates are not available for all vocational courses undertaken in England. However, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) routinely collect and publish retention data for learners on LSC funded further education provision. Retention rates for 2001–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 are shown in the LSC statistical first release, "Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England: 2002/03", available on the LSC website: http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/SectorData/StatisticalFirstReleases/sfr04.htm. A paper copy can be found in the Commons Library. Table 2 of this publication shows success, retention and achievement rates by level and type of qualification. The same publication also gives success rates for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) studied through LSC funded work based learning for young people.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 July 2004

DEFENCE

Aluminium Powder/Barium

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has authorised the dropping of *(a)* aluminium powder and *(b)* barium in UK airspace by (i) UK aeroplanes and (ii) US aeroplanes. [179456]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 June 2004]:* No.

Army (Redress of Grievances)

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 28 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 992W, on army (redress of grievances), how many soldiers who submitted a redress since 1997 made complaints of bullying of the 18 cases outstanding since April 2001; how many are complaints involving alleged bullying; and if he will make a statement. [179876]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence does not hold complete records dating back to 1997. However, during the period 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2004, 27 complaints were submitted within the Army in which allegations of bullying were made.

Of the 18 complaints still pending since April 2001, none alleges bullying.

Army Recruitment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of each regiment of the British Army on the latest date for which figures are available had been recruited from *(a)* Fiji, *(b)* other Commonwealth countries and *(c)* foreign countries. [183209]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* Figures for individual regiments are not available, however, the percentage for each Arm/Service of the British Army on the 1 June 2004 which had been recruited from *(a)* Fiji and *(b)* other Commonwealth countries is as follows:

Percentage

ARM/service	*(a) FIJI*	*(b) Commonwealth*[1]
H CAV RAC	1.2	0.1
RA	2.0	0.5
RE	0.7	0.3
R Signals	0.5	0.4
Footguards	1.0	0.1
Scots Division	4.5	0.0
Queens Division	3.5	0.9
Kings Division	3.8	0.7
POW Division	3.1	0.6
Light Division	1.9	0.5
R Irish (GS)	5.5	0.0
Para	0.8	0.0
AAC	1.2	0.2
RLC	3.2	1.1
RAMC	1.4	0.6
REME	0.6	0.2
AG Corps (Pro)	0.1	0.0
AG Corps (SPS)	2.5	1.3
RADC	3.1	0.4
QARANC	0.0	0.7
CA Mus	0.0	0.3

[1] Recruits from St. Vincent since April 2002 and St. Lucia since April 1999

No individuals have been recruited from *(c)* foreign countries.

Diego Garcia

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 27 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1840W, what the reason is for the Royal Military Police post established at Diego Garcia. [178781]

Mr. Hoon: Some 40 British Service personnel, including one from the Royal Military Police, are permanently stationed in Diego Garcia, where they undertake a variety of customs, policing, and security related duties.

Guns

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the need for interoperability of ammunition for naval guns between the Royal Navy and major Allies' navies; and what assessment has been made of the cost implications of interoperability. [R] [183143]

Mr. Ingram: No specific studies have been undertaken in this area. However, in the Type 45 Land Attack Lethality Package work conducted last year, interoperability of ammunition was recognised as a potential benefit both in the allied naval and United Kingdom land environments.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the long-term requirements of guns for the Type 45 Destroyer. [R] [183144]

Mr. Ingram: Ministry of Defence staff are presently conducting an assessment into the future Naval Fire Support (NFS) requirements of the Fleet in order to support the MOD's expeditionary strategy as outlined in the Defence White Paper of December 2003. This assessment will take into account the need to provide an enhanced NFS system to the Type 45 destroyer as well as other platforms in the Fleet. The six type 45 destroyers on order have all been programmed to receive the 4.5" Mk8 Mod1 gun system.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional capability will result from the improvements to the 4.5" Mk8 Mod1 gun; what the projected cost of improvements is; and what alternatives have or are being explored. [R] [183145]

Mr. Ingram: Improvements to the 4.5" Mk8 Mod1 gun system are aimed both at increasing its reliability and extending its range, by around 30 per cent., through the introduction of improved ammunition. An engineering update programme is under way concerning

the design and construction of the mount to remove obsolescence, to improve reliability and maintainability and to reduce the quantity of hazardous materials and fluids. At present, six ships have been upgraded, with the majority of the remaining gun-fitted ships to follow in the near future. Early results have shown significant improvements in reliability as a result of this upgrade. The modified guns are designated 4.5" Mk8 Mod 1 and, on the basis that the programme is to improve reliability, it is wholly funded by In Service Support funding.

The new improved ammunition was introduced during April 2004.

Incremental improvement to the gun system is constantly being explored and studies to assess improvements in accuracy (improved data input), range (improved ammunition) and lethality (larger calibre systems) are being investigated.

Iraq

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 22 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 547W, on Iraq, when he will write to the hon. Member in response to questions *(a)* 154477, *(b)* 154488 and *(c)* 158861. [177583]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 7 June 2004]:* To provide the information requested, it is necessary to scrutinise every unit record produced during operations in Iraq. This is a considerable task and, although we have devoted all available resources to the work and it has been on-going for a number of weeks, it remains some way from completion. I will write when I am able to respond substantively to the hon. Member.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer to the question reference 174620, on Iraq (detainees), what prompted the issuing of new verbal instructions and an amended Standard Operating Instruction on 30 September 2003. [182358]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* Military commanders became aware that the practice of hooding could be harmful to prisoners, especially if it was applied inappropriately. They judged that these concerns outweighed the military justification for the continued use of hooding as a means of blindfolding, and that the most prudent, immediate response was to introduce a ban. The incident that gave rise to these concerns has been the subject of an investigation.

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 142W, on what date he was first informed *(a)* that two British intelligence officers had participated in the interrogation of a hooded Iraqi prisoner and *(b)* that the Prime Minister had disclosed this information to the Intelligence and Security Committee. [182921]

Mr. Ingram: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister copied his letter to the Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee to the Defence Secretary on the 25 May 2004. The intelligence personnel concerned were not members of the armed forces. We are not aware of any instances where the armed forces interrogators have used hooding as an interrogation technique.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 12 July 2004, ref. 174620, if he will place a copy of the original Standard Operating Instruction on the Policy for Apprehending, Handling and Processing of Detainees and Internees in the Library. [184426]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding this information in accordance with Exemption 1a of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information which relates to defence, security and international relations.

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an agreement was reached between coalition partners on the degree to which coercion would be permitted to be used on prisoners of war and other detainees taken into custody in Iraq during Operation Telic and the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq; and what discussions he has had with his United States counterpart on this matter since 8 May 2003. [175067]

Mr. Ingram: Coercion of prisoners of war, internees and detainees is specifically prohibited under the terms of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols. Allegations of coercion by other members of the coalition is a matter for those nations concerned, and the US Government have already launched an investigation.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that the prohibition of *(a)* torture and *(b)* any other form of ill treatment is respected by (i) coalition forces, (ii) Iraqi police and (iii) other official forces involved in detaining suspects. [166998]

Mr. Ingram: Members of the United Kingdom armed forces are liable under both UK and international law for their conduct while on operations in Iraq. As such, military personnel are fully informed of their responsibilities and obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, not only through training received prior to deployment, but also through specific Standard Operating Procedures. All UK military personnel deploying to Iraq receive an Aide Memoire card on the Law of Armed Conflict, which clearly states that prisoners, detainees and civilians must be treated with dignity and respect, and must not in any way be subject to abuse, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment.

Any credible allegations of abuse by UK forces are investigated. Allegations made against other coalition nations are a matter for them. Members of Iraqi security services, including the Iraqi police and Iraqi Civil Defence Corps, are subject to Iraqi criminal law. They are controlled by the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior, who have issued them with a code of conduct.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the standard procedure for *(a)* debriefing and *(b)* recovery from trauma for British soldiers returning from Iraq is; [183180]

(2) whether all British soldiers returning from Iraq are assessed for mental health problems; and how long after arrival back in the UK mental health assessments take place; [183181]

(3) what provisions are in place to address the mental health needs of soldiers who have been to Iraq. [183193]

Mr. Caplin: Service personnel, both Regular and Reservist, returning from current operations in the Gulf undergo a two to three day period of 'normalisation'. During this period, they receive a post-deployment briefing package. This package includes two leaflets and a presentation, covering post traumatic stress reactions, and the problems that may be encountered on returning home to families and friends. Personnel also receive guidance on who to consult (including their commanders, padres, social workers or medical officers) if they experience post traumatic problems. Commanders also receive training on how to identify signs that an individual may be experiencing probiems in order that they can encourage them to seek help.

There is no mandatory mental health assessment for Service personnel returning from current operations in the Gulf, it is considered that the detection of mental health problems is not best served by a standardised 'one size fits all' assessment process as such conditions can manifest over a period of time and affect individuals in different ways. Therefore, an enforced assessment could, in the longer term, be potentially counter productive.

Mental health assessments and any treatment required is carried out according to individual needs.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the mental health status of troops returning from Iraq. [183196]

Mr. Caplin: Defence Ministers have had no discussions with their United States counterpart on the mental health of Service personnel returning from Iraq.

Long-term Sickness

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are classified as long-term sick in *(a)* the Royal Artillery, *(b)* the Royal Engineers, *(c)* the Royal Armoured Corps, *(d)* the Infantry and *(e)* the Army Air Corps; and if he will make a statement. [180562]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 28 June 2004]:* The numbers currently classified as long-term sick from the trained strength of the Arms and Corps specified are set out in the following table.

	Number
(a) Royal Artillery	41
(b) Royal Engineers	31
(c) Royal Armoured Corps	28
(d) Infantry	122
(e) Army Air Corps	9
Total	231

Management Groups

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the responsibilities of the *(a)* 1 Group, *(b)* 2 Group, *(c)* 3 Group, *(d)* Deputy Commander-in-Chief, *(e)* British Forces Cyprus, *(f)* British Forces Gibraltar, *(g)* Permanent Joint Headquarters, *(h)* Sovereign Base Areas Administration and *(i)* British Forces Falkland Islands management groups. [181780]

Mr. Caplin: The responsibilities of the management groupings requested are listed as follows:

(a) To deliver, develop and sustain combat air power for operations. The Group is responsible for all operational fast jet aircraft, including the Joint Force Harrier (incorporating both Royal Air Force and Royal Navy Harriers), as well as the Air Weapons Ranges.

(b) To develop and deliver effective combat support world-wide. This includes the provision of air transport, air refuelling, force protection, logistics and supplies to support operations and exercises worldwide.

(c) To deliver ahd sustain ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting and Reconnaissance), search and rescue and air battle management capability in an efficient and effective manner.

(d) To direct and develop the delivery and sustainment of air power capabilities that will make a key contribution to the success of joint, NATO and multinational operations.

(e) Operate, sustains and protects key facilities in Cyprus, in order to preserve the UK's strategic interests.

(f) Responsible for the security and maintenance of key sites and air and sea ports of disembarkation in order to ensure Gibraltar's security and territorial integrity, and provide staging and mounting facilities for UK and coalition operations elsewhere.

(g) As directed by the Chief of Defence Staff, for the planning and execution of Joint, potentially Joint, and UK-led multi-national operations, and for exercising Operational Command of UK forces assigned to combined and multi-national operations led by others,

(h) Administer the sovereign base areas in Cyprus in accordance with the Directive from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence in order to ensure their effective use as military bases, full cooperation with the Republic of Cyprus and the protection of the interests of those resident and working within the Sovereign Base Areas.

(i) The mission is to deter any military aggression against the South Atlantic Overseas Territories.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the responsibilities of the *(a)* Flag Officer Training and Recruiting, *(b)* HQ, *(c)* Naval Secretary, *(d)* Army Personnel Centre, *(e)* Adjutant General, *(f)* Army Training and Recruiting Agency, *(g)* Army Programme, *(h)* Service Children Education, *(i)* General Staff, *(j)* Personnel Management Agency, *(k)* Core HQ and *(l)* Training Group Defence Agency management groups. [181782]

Mr. Caplin: The responsibilities of the management groupings you requested are listed as follows:

(a) The role of Flag Officer Training and Recruiting (FOTR) is to deliver trained personnel to the Naval Service and support RN sponsored Youth Organisations.

(b) HQ is taken to mean the TLB itself. The aim of 2nd Sea Lord/Commander In Chief Naval Home Command is to deliver the Naval Service personnel component of Operational Capability (OC) while evolving it to meet the needs of the Future Navy. This means consistently delivering the right people, with the right skills, to the right place at the right time.

(c) The aim of DGHR(N) is to maintain an attractive employment environment that will sustain the trained strength of the Naval Service for effective and efficient deployment in Peace, Crisis, Major Crisis or War. The Naval Secretary/Director General Human Resources (Navy) (NavSec/DGHR(N)) is responsible for the policy and execution of all aspects of Service Conditions, Structural, Appointing and Drafting requirements for uniformed Naval Sendee personnel.

(d) I wrote to the hon. Member on 22 June with a copy of the APC Business Plan and undertook to provide a copy of the 2003–04 APC Annual Report and Accounts. These documents set out the responsibilities of the Army Personnel Centre.

(e) The mission of the Adjutant General is to enhance the operational effectiveness of the British Army's regular, reserve and volunteer components by recruiting and training the men and women we need, by carefully managing their careers, by educating and supporting their families and by giving sensible and pragmatic policy direction and advice on all personnel issues affecting those who are serving or retired.

(f) The Army Training and Recruiting Agency (ATRA) is an integral part of the Adjutant General's Top Level Budget and receives its direction from him. The ATRA's aim, or Mission, is to "Deliver trained and motivated individuals to meet the operational requirements of the Army and defence".

(g) See serial *(d)*

(h) The Service Children's Education Agency provides an effective and efficient education service, from Foundation Stage through to sixth form, for dependent children residing with MOD personnel serving outside the United Kingdom; to enable those children to benefit from the residence abroad.

(i) The General Staff mission is

"The General Staff is to provide clear policy and direction for the Army, advise the Ministers and others, ensuring coherence across the Lines of Development in order to sustain the delivery of military capability from the Army both now and in the future."

(j) The Personnel Management Agency is responsible for providing the right people to meet the RAFs contribution to the UK's defence aim. This means putting the right people in the right place at the right time, together with developing people across all branches and trades so that they can continue to be able to man the RAF in the years ahead.

(k) The Training Group Defence Agency (TG) is responsible for the recruitment and selection of all Royal Air Force personnel in the required numbers to achieve the calculated training targets. The Agency trains military personnel and certain categories of civilians, to the standards required to undertake ground appointments, and also trains aircrew of the three Services to the appropriate standards for entry into their operational conversion units and other specialist flying training courses. The Agency also provides Lead Command and Common Service capability in accordance with single Service protocols on training and development, education, specialist training support and physical education.

(l) There are three distinct elements of the Core HQ—PTC HQ Central Areas, Air Officer Administration HQ Branches and the Directly Administered Units. The Central areas cover the HQ elements of PTC (Cmd Sec, AOA, CINC/DCINC) and specialist functions HQ staff (DLS, DGMS, Chaplain-In-Chief) together with policy areas. The AOA/DAUs areas also cover the RAF SU's both in the UK and Overseas (including USVFs, RAFIO and NATO SUs).

Further information on individual defence agencies is available in the Library of the House of Commons.

Medical Pensions

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure of each service has been on medical pensions attributable to service for the injured personnel discharged in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [183347]

Mr. Caplin: Details of the expenditure on attributable medical pensions under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme and the War Pension Scheme for personnel medically discharged since 1997 are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Numeracy/Literacy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* numeracy and *(b)* literacy of recruits to each of the three services; and what programmes are available to those who need to raise their level of attainment. [182327]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 5 July 2004]:* Basic Skills (numeracy and literacy) are assessed on entry to all three Services. An assessment for the Royal Navy earlier this year, found that some 20 per cent. of recruits were at or below National Basic Skills Entry Level 3 and an assessment by the Army in October 2003 indicated that some 50 per cent. of their recruits were at or below this standard. No significant problem has been identified in the RAF.

In the Royal Navy, Basic Skills are addressed within training according to individual need and from September 2004, there will be a separate training phase for those identified as having a Basic Skills gap. In the Army, Basic Skills support and assistance is provided locally at around 164 Educational Centres, ICT-based learning centres and Initial Training Units. In the RAF, those who require improvements to their Basic Skills are given assistance via the RAF Learndirect Hub.

All three Services are major providers of Modem Apprenticeships. These require individuals to achieve at least Key Skills Level 1 in both numeracy and literacy.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence personnel are performing peace maintaining roles, broken down by country. [183694]

Mr. Ingram: United Kingdom armed forces are engaged abroad in supporting the development and maintenance of peace in the following countries:

	Approximate personnel numbers
Middle East[1]	9,500
Bosnia	800
Afghanistan	700
Cyprus	410
Kosovo	190
Georgia	7
Sierra Leone	20
Democratic Republic of Congo	5
Ethiopia/Eritrea	4
Liberia	3

[1] Including Iraq

The UK's contribution to these operations is kept under regular review.

PFI/PPP Contracts

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182265]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has enabling contracts with a number of companies, including those listed, to provide specialist financial advice to projects on PFI and partnering issues. These contracts, of four years duration, were placed in January 2002 following competition in accordance with MOD's normal procedures. They will be recompeted in 2005 with a view to replacement contracts being let in January 2006. Work is commissioned under the contracts through individual Tasking Orders placed by project teams. The value of total payments under these contracts to the end of financial year 2003–04, to the nearest £0.5 million in each case, was:

	£ million
PricewaterhouseCooper	23
Deloitte and Touche	4
KPMG	12
Ernst and Young	0.5

Service Periods

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent figure is for the average length of service in the British Army of soldiers who are *(a)* United Kingdom citizens, *(b)* Commonwealth citizens and *(c)* foreign citizens, broken down by regiment. [183250]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The following table gives the Mean Length of Reckonable service for all trained soldiers in all Arms/Services as at 1 June 2004.

Note that the data presented represents the situation as at 1 June 2004 and the relatively low Length of Service of Commonwealth citizens reflects the fact that many of them are recently joined.

	UK	*Commonwealth (excluding UK)*	*Eire*
H CAV	8 years 4 months	2 years 3 months	[1]
RAC	8 years 4 months	3 years 4 months	10 years 4 months
RA	8 years 7 months	2 years 6 months	7 years 4 months
RE	9 years	3 years 1 month	9 years 5 months
R Signals	8 years 4 months	3 years 7 months	7 years 8 months
Footguards	7 years 8 months	2 years 9 months	[2]
Scots DIV	8 years 1 month	3 years 6 months	[2]
Queens DIV	7 years 10 months	2 years 7 months	14 years 6 months
Kings DIV	1 years 6 months	2 years 8 months	[2]
POW DIV	7 years 7 months	2 years 10 months	[2]
Light DIV	7 years 6 months	2 years 1 month	[2]
R Irish(GS)	8 years 2 months	3 years 5 months	[2]
Para	7 years 8 months	3 years 8 months	10 years 11 months
Infantry total	7 years 9 months	2 years 10 months	9 years 11 months
AAC	10 years 4 months	2 years 9 months	[2]
RLC	9 years 8 months	2 years 2 months	9 years 11 months
RAMC	9 years 10 months	2 years 11 months	[2]
REME	10 years 8 months	3 years 7 months	10 years 11 months
AG Corps(PRO)	9 years 9 months	6 years 2 months	[2]
AG Corps(SPS)	11 years 11 months	1 year 10 months	11 years 5 months
AG Corps(MPS)	17 years 8 months	[1]	[1]
RAVC	8 years 1 month	[2]	[1]
SASC	16 years 10 months	[1]	[1]
RADC	10 years 4 months	3 years 1 month	[1]
INT Corps	10 years 6 months	[1]	[1]
APTC	15 years 11 months	[2]	[1]
QARANC	8 years 3 months	3 years 5 months	[1]
CA Mus	12 years 4 months	3 years 10 months	[2]
LS List	27 years 5 months	[2]	[1]
Total	9 years 3 months	2 years 7 months	9 years 10 months

[1] Represents zero occurrences in a particular category.

[2] Represents less than five occurrences in a particular category.

Length of Service averages have only been calculated for categories containing five or more individuals. There is no Arm/Service with five or more foreign citizens.

The average Length of Service of all foreign citizens is seven years one month.

The only UK dependency with five or more individuals are St. Helenians whose average Length of Service is two years 10 months. The average Length of Service of all UK dependencies is four years.

Sonar 2087

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what frequency is used by Royal Navy Frigates, including any variation, for the purposes of the Sonar 2087 broadcasts. [183702]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* Sonar 2087 is a Low Frequency Active Sonar which operates below 3Khz. The precise frequency and bandwidth are classified. I am therefore withholding this information in accordance with Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information which relates to defence.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the use of the Sonar 2087 by the Royal Navy in Scotland's North West Approaches. [183704]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* Acceptance trials of Sonar 2087 are scheduled to be conducted in the North West Approaches in July 2005 and mid 2006.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what parts of his Department's estate will not be covered by the commitments set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [181415]

Mr. Caplin: The Ministry of Defence is fully committed to the requirements set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's policy statement of 7 July 2000 on the management of safety and environmental protection in the MOD stated that

> "within the United Kingdom, MOD will comply with the Government's Strategy for Sustainable development. Overseas the Department will apply UK standards where reasonably practical and in addition comply with the relevant host nations' standards."

UK Defence Industry (Foreign Ownership)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the level of foreign ownership of the UK defence industry. [183351]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 July 2004]:* The defence industry has changed significantly over the last decade through consolidation and globalisation. The industry is now dominated by a small number of very large companies that have the skills and expertise that are required to manage the largest and most complex defence programmes. In response to these global trends we made clear in our Defence Industrial Policy that the UK defence industry embraces all defence suppliers that create value, employment, technology or intellectual assets in the UK. This includes both UK and foreign owned companies. We welcome foreign direct investment as it can result in technology and innovation developed abroad being applied to domestic production. This enhances competition and competitiveness, significantly helping to develop the UK's high-value, and high-tech business environment. At the same time, UK defence companies continue to make substantial investments overseas.

Iraq

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what searches are under way in Iraq for weapons of mass destruction; and if he will make a statement. [184116]

Mr. Hoon: The search for evidence of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their associated programmes in Iraq is being undertaken by the Iraq Survey Group, a combined effort between the United States, United Kingdom and Australia.

The ISG has produced two interim reports so far, and a further substantial report is expected later this year. Links to the posted testimony for both reports can be found on the MOD UK Operation Telic website www.mod.uk

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children in Care

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what monitoring his Department undertakes of the speed with which local authorities *(a)* submit care orders for processing through the courts and *(b)* transfer children in their care or custody into foster homes. [183260]

Margaret Hodge: It is for local authorities with social services responsibilities to determine the point at which an application is made to the court for an order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989. Each application will depend upon the unique circumstances of the individual case with which they are dealing. In some cases, it will be appropriate for an order to be sought immediately regarding a child with whom the local authority will not previously have had contact. In other cases, social services may have been involved with a family over many years before concerns arise that the section 31 threshold of significant harm has been crossed. In consequence, information on the time elapsed before the submission of care orders is not collected centrally.

Children entering local authority care are moved into a placement immediately. The majority of children entering care are immediately placed with foster carers. Of the 24,100 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2003, 18,600 were initially placed with foster carers immediately.

Sexwise

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with

local authorities in England and Wales on the distribution and display of Sexwise posters issued by primary care trusts. [184055]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: The Sexwise materials were developed following extensive consultation with young people and parents. No specific consultations were held regarding distribution and display arrangements. Sexwise materials can only be ordered by local teenage pregnancy co-ordinators and are issued with strict guidelines on their distribution.

Dr. Tonge: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* local authorities which are displaying Sexwise safe sex posters. [184056]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: We do not collect data on which primary care trusts or local authorities are displaying Sexwise posters. Sexwise materials can only be ordered by local teenage pregnancy co-ordinators and are issued with strict guidelines on their distribution. This makes clear that they should not be used in schools, but can be displayed in other youth settings, such as young people's advice clinics.

Aimhigher Programme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the objectives are of the Aimhigher programme; and how he plans to achieve them. [183622]

Alan Johnson: Aimhigher seeks to widen participation in higher education and increase the number of people, particularly young people, who have the abilities and aspirations to benefit from it. The objectives are to:

raise aspirations and motivation to enter HE among those young people in schools, further education and workplace learning, from under-represented groups;

raise the attainment of potential HE students who are from under-represented groups, so that they gain the academic or vocational qualifications and learning skills that will enable them to enter HE;

to strengthen progression routes into HE via vocational courses, including Modern Apprenticeships, whether they are delivered in schools, colleges or the workplace;

to raise students' aspirations to enter HE and apply to the institution and/or course best able to match their abilities; and

to improve the attainment, aspirations, motivation and self-esteem of gifted and talented young people aged 14–19; and the quality of identification, provision and support for those students in schools and colleges.

These objectives will be achieved by local school, university and college partnerships working together to raise aspirations and attainment of young people through activities such as masterclasses, summer schools, university visits, and the mentoring of young people by undergraduates.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff are employed on the Aimhigher programme. [183623]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of people who are employed by Aimhigher partnerships is not held centrally. Regions and areas have taken different approaches to the employment of staff. In some areas, there are full time dedicated Aimhigher coordinators, while in others, Aimhigher is part of a jobholder's responsibilities. A number of staff in HE institutions, schools and colleges are also involved in the programme for part of their time, including those teachers and lecturers who deliver summer schools, masterclasses and other activities.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget is for the Aimhigher programme. [183624]

Alan Johnson: The budget for the new Aimhigher programme is £139 million for the academic year 2004–05. The budget for future years is being considered as part of the Spending Review.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which areas are included in the Aimhigher programme; and how they were chosen. [183625]

Alan Johnson: The White Paper "The Future of Higher Education" announced the bringing together of the Department's Excellence Challenge programme with Partnerships for Progression, an initiative funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), to create a new, national outreach programme called Aimhigher. The new programme will cover all areas of the country from August 2004, and will operate most intensively in disadvantaged areas.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what effect he anticipates the new regulations on tuition fees will have on the Aimhigher programme. [183626]

Alan Johnson: The measures contained in the Higher Education Act 2004, together with other elements of the new student support package, will support Aimhigher by ensuring that more able young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can access the financial help they need to take up higher education opportunities:

Up-front tuition fees will be abolished, and all full-time undergraduate students will be able to defer paying their fees until after they graduate;

Graduates will only start making repayments on their student loan once they are earning over £15,000 and then, at an affordable rate linked to their income, and outstanding loan amounts will be written off after 25 years;

Around 30 per cent. of students from less well off families will receive a minimum of £?,000 per year in grants and bursaries.

As a further safeguard, institutions will only be allowed to charge higher tuition fees if they have an Access Plan approved by the Director of the proposed Office for Fair Access. Access Plans will focus on what institutions are doing to encourage more people from less advantaged backgrounds to apply: they will have to say how they will provide bursaries and other financial support to students from lower income backgrounds.

Evidence shows that young people need clear information about the costs of higher education and the financial support available. Aimhigher seeks to raise awareness about, and understanding of, higher education opportunities and will play an important role in providing this information. Through the Aimhigher

roadshow, summer schools and other Aimhigher-supported events, prospective students will have access to information about the costs of higher education and the new financial support package.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students have attended university as a result of the Aimhigher programme; which universities they went to; and how many students completed their course. [183627]

Alan Johnson: A number of factors influence a person's decision to enter higher education including their pre-entry qualifications, the availability of jobs, the influence of family and friends, and their involvement in attainment and aspiration raising activities such as those funded by Aimhigher and its predecessor programmes.

The national Aimhigher programme starts in August. The two predecessor programmes; the Department's Excellence Challenge, operational since September 2001, and Partnerships for Progression, run by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), operational since April 2003. It is too early to assess the impact on entry to Higher Education (HE), particularly since most activities involve young people aged 13 plus, many of whom will not yet have reached the applications stage.

However, there are early indications of a rise in applications in Excellence in Cities (EiC) areas where the Excellence Challenge programme operated. In Excellence in Cities areas, applications for 2003 entry were up 4.2 per cent. compared to 2002. Applications from non EiC areas were up only 1.6 per cent. in comparison. In 2003, university acceptances rose by 1.4 per cent. for applicants from EiC areas, compared to a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in non EiC areas.

Carers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in full or part-time education he estimates are carers. [181103]

Margaret Hodge: For Higher Education students, data are not available on the number of students who are carers. However, latest data on dependents grants paid to Higher Education students domiciled in England and Wales in 2002–03 indicate that there were around 39,000 grants paid. These grants are those paid to students in respect of dependent children, dependent spouse or partner, other financially dependent adult, childcare, or lone parents.

For Further Education students, the latest available information shows that, in 2002–03, there were 3,000 learners in England described as "full-time carer for dependant relative living at home". This figure only includes those learners for whom additional funding was claimed.

Chemistry Teaching

Donald Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he will take to arrest the decline of chemistry teaching in universities and institutions of higher education, with particular reference to financial incentives to students. [182368]

Alan Johnson: We are currently discussing with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and a number of other stakeholders how best to safeguard the national provision of scientific subjects, including chemistry. The role of financial incentives for students is relevant to this discussion. With the advent of variable fees, Higher Education Institutions will have flexibility to vary the level of fees for particular courses. There is also a role for bursary schemes such as that already announced by the Institute of Physics for students of Physics.

GSCE Results (Barnsley and Doncaster)

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of 15 and 16-year-old pupils in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster achieved more than five GCSEs at grade A* to C or GNVQ equivalent in each of the last seven years. [184095]

Mr. Miliband: The information requested is in the table:

Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving 5 or more grades A-C*

Local education authority	Barnsley	Doncaster	England
1997	28.6	33.8	45.1
1998	29.8	34.1	46.3
1999	32.4	36.2	47.9
2000	34.9	36.8	49.2
2001	35.1	39.9	50.0
2002	35.4	39.6	51.6
2003	39.3	40.2	52.9

[1] GCSE/GNVQ results are reported as standard as the results of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August, and therefore reaching the end of compulsory education at the end of the school year.

Holiday Activities

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what activities his Department are funding for children and young people over the summer holiday period; and how much funding will be made available. [184165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for Education and Skills and Big Lottery Fund joined forces with the Youth Justice Board, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport to combine previous holiday activity schemes and deliver a Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) programme. It is designed to divert and develop those young people aged 8–19 most at risk of social exclusion and committing crime and to steer their energy in a positive direction. It is being delivered across England from May 2003 to March 2006. £25 million funding for activities is available for the current year. A further £13.75 million is provided, annually, by the DfES to fund keyworkers throughout England.

Provision takes place in all of the school holiday periods. The largest proportion of the budget is planned to be spent over the summer period but detailed information is not available. Regional Government offices have the flexibility to manage local needs and it is for them to decide upon the balance of provision. In addition to activities one to one support is available for the most at risk young people.

The programme comprises quality arts, sports and cultural activities and encourages young people to continue in these activities after the programme ends. It aims to bring together young people from different geographical and ethnic minority communities to help break down prejudices and misunderstanding.

Jarvis

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions Jarvis has failed to meet contractual obligations with regard to the completion of education public-private partnerships. [182712]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: I am able to answer the question only with regard to education public private partnerships in schools in England. In this context the Department is not aware of any occasions when Jarvis has failed to meet contractual obligations.

Modern Apprenticeships

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of 16 to 19-year-olds enrolled on modern apprenticeships *(a)* left the programme early, *(b)* achieved only the NVQ and *(c)* achieved the full framework in (i) 2002–03 and (ii) 2003–04. [180711]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) routinely publish outcomes data for Apprenticeships in the Statistical First Release series "Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England", available to download from the LSC website: http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Documents/SubjectListing/SectorData/StatisticalFirstReleases/default.htm.
Outcomes of learners who were aged 16 to 18 at the start of their programme, and who left an apprenticeship in 2002/03 are shown in the following table.

Programme	*Completed framework (x)*		*Achieved NVQ only (y)*		*Total NVQ achievement (x + y)*		*Total leavers*
	Number	*Percentage*[1]	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*[2,3]	*Number*
Advanced Apprenticeships	11,200	38	3,100	10	14,300	49	29,400
Apprenticeships (at level 2)	16,500	25	8,600	13	25,100	38	65,800
All Apprenticeships[3]	27,800	29	11,700	12	39,400	41	95,200

[1] Routinely referred to as the framework completion rate.
[2] Routinely referred to as the NVQ success rate.
[3] Totals may not equal sum of columns or rows due to rounding.
Source:
LSC Statistical First Release: Further Education and Work Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England: 2002/03, ref. id ILR/SFR04.

As the academic year has not yet ended, outcomes data for the whole of 2003/04 are not available. Provisional outcomes data for 2003/04 will be published on the LSC website in November 2004. Early year data indicates that the NVQ success rate for 16 to 18-year-olds on apprenticeships has increased to 42 per cent. in the year to 31 January 2004, from 41 per cent. in the year to 31 January 2003.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the budget from modern apprenticeships in *(a)* 2005–06 and *(b)* 2006–07 is allocated to businesses to convert their existing training for young workers into modern apprenticeships; and what proportion that represents in each of those financial years of the total training allocation for modern apprenticeships. [180712]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Friend with this information and copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Multiplication Tables

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of primary schools he estimates teaches the multiplication tables. [177273]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: Since the introduction of the National Numeracy Strategy in 1999, the learning and teaching of multiplication tables has been one of the main elements of the daily mathematics lesson in primary schools. The National Numeracy framework for teachers sets out key teaching objectives for each year from reception to year six and pupils are expected to know by heart number facts such as multiplication tables. Although the Strategy is not statutory, it is followed in the vast majority of primary schools in England.

Since 1998, the proportion of 11 year olds achieving a Level 4 in mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 has risen by 14 percentage points from 59 to 73 per cent.

Recycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are in place to ensure schemes for recycling *(a)* waste paper and *(b)* other recyclable goods are available in all educational establishments. [184223]

Mr. Miliband: Local authorities are responsible for recycling schemes in their areas. Some local authorities operate schemes to encourage recycling of materials by schools. All local authorities have to report annually to DEFRA on their recycling performance which encourages them to develop schemes to separate waste

and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. There are also a number of voluntary schemes in operation to promote recycling in the educational sector some of which are listed at www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools.

SEN Teaching

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department spent on research into the effectiveness of special education needs teaching in each of the last three years; and if he will list the projects funded. [183212]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The Department has developed a considerable research programme on special educational needs, funded through the Department's Research Budget and individual policy programme budgets. In total, since 2001/02 financial year the Department has spent approximately £1,900,000 on research into special educational needs. Of this, approximately £300,000 was spent on research which addressed the issue of the effectiveness of SEN teaching.

In 2001/02 financial year the total spent on research into the effectiveness of SEN teaching was £25,000; in 2002/03 the total spent was £9,000; in 2003/04 the total was £142,714; and in 2004/05 the total was £120,730. These projects were: Teaching Strategies and Approaches for Pupils with SEN: a scoping study.

Inclusion and Pupil Achievement.

Raising the Achievement of Children with Specific Language and Communication Difficulties: Key Stage 4 to work and college.

Early Years Transition and SEN.

What Works for Children with Mathematical Difficulties.

South-West Schools

Mr. Flook: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* school places and *(b)* pupils there were in each local education authority in the South West in each of the last three years. [183655]

Mr. Miliband: The requested information on school places is not available for 2002 and 2004. Figures relating to primary and secondary school places for 2001 and 2003 are given in table 1. Pupil numbers for 2001, 2002 and 2003 (position as at January each year) are given in table 2.

Table 1: Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number (headcount) of pupils[2]—position as at May each year—by local education authority areas within the South West Government Office Region

	2001[3]		2003[4]	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
South West	417,052	321,379	423,720	338,506
Bath and North East Somerset	13,350	12,588	13,680	13,018
Bournemouth	10,695	10,647	11,838	10,193
Bristol, City of	31,758	19,117	30,828	19,301
Cornwall	42,243	29,114	43,130	33,432
Devon	58,560	40,095	58,331	42,472
Dorset	26,585	30,553	27,738	31,747
Gloucestershire	50,698	37,806	49,258	42,178
Isles of Scilly	242	160	265	[5]—
North Somerset	15,146	12,685	15,064	11,781
Plymouth	22,265	18,264	22,582	18,877
Poole	11,160	8,747	11,262	8,422
Somerset	40,402	33,552	42,650	34,721
South Gloucestershire	24,758	17,400	25,686	18,206
Swindon	19,676	11,744	18,702	12,339
Torbay	9,755	8,884	10,323	9,037
Wiltshire	39,759	30,023	42,383	32,782

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes nursery pupils.
[3] 2001 capacity figures based on More Open Enrolment calculation.
[4] 2003 capacity figures based on net capacity calculation.
[5] not applicable. No schools of this type.

Source:
Surplus Places Survey

Table 2: Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number (headcount) of pupils[2]—position as at January each year—by local education authority areas within the South West Government Office Region

	2001		2002		2003	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
South West	399,918	314,652	397,169	319,420	393,290	324,255
Bath and North East Somerset	12,924	12,273	12,791	12,266	12,665	12,363
Bournemouth	11,449	9,770	11,226	9,900	11,145	9,961
Bristol, City of	31,597	17,907	31,200	17,873	30,683	17,815
Cornwall	41,146	32,011	41,054	32,323	40,855	32,763
Devon	56,503	39,832	56,159	40,872	55,679	41,696
Dorset	25,374	29,319	25,177	29,814	25,085	30,243
Gloucestershire	46,407	38,165	45,814	39,057	45,314	39,868
Isles of Scilly	140	124	148	117	265	[3]—
North Somerset	14,927	12,269	14,916	12,549	14,922	12,775
Plymouth	21,285	18,829	20,968	18,982	20,431	19,008

Table 2: Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number (headcount) of pupils[2]—position as at January each year—by local education authority areas within the South West Government Office Region

	2001		2002		2003	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Poole	11,250	8,197	11,134	8,327	10,897	8,559
Somerset	38,894	31,214	38,707	31,928	38,384	32,737
South Gloucestershire	23,462	16,442	23,577	16,479	23,331	16,872
Swindon	17,901	11,561	17,626	11,554	17,347	11,579
Torbay	10,328	8,708	10,399	8,863	10,325	9,024
Wiltshire	36,331	28,031	36,273	28,516	35,962	28,992

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes nursery pupils.
[3] not applicable. No school of this type.
Source:
Annual Schools' Census

Student Loans

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of undergraduates from each social group applied for student loans during their higher education course in each of the last five years. [183315]

Alan Johnson: Data on the percentage of student loan applications from each social group are not available.

Data are available on the take-up rate of student loans for all eligible students in the United Kingdom and are shown in the table.

Percentage take-up of student loans by eligible population—United Kingdom[1]—academic years 1998/99 to 2002/03 (provisional)

Academic year	Income contingent loans[2]	Mortgage style loans[3]	All students
1998/99	69	68	68
1999/2000	76	66	72
2000/01	80	65	78
2001/02	82	69	81
2002/03[4]	81	70	81

[1] Student loans are available to eligible students normally domiciled in the United Kingdom.
[2] Students starting their course in 1998/99 or later under the new arrangements.
[3] Students who entered higher education up to 1997/98 and those who entered in 1998/99 to whom existing arrangements still applied.
[4] Provisional.
Source:
Student Loans Company.

Teachers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what incentives he plans to introduce to encourage more teachers to teach *(a)* science, *(b)* foreign languages and *(c)* music. [183629]

Mr. Miliband: Since 1998, the Government has paid in full the tuition fees of all home and European students taking Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) courses in England. In September 2000, this was supplemented by the introduction of £6,000 training bursaries for PGCE students and £4,000 Golden Hellos for those going on to teach mathematics, science, modern languages, technology or English. As a result of these incentives, total recruitment to teacher training rose by 31 per cent. between 1999–2000 and 2003–04. Over the same period, recruitment rose in science by 21 per cent., in modern languages by 24 per cent. and in music by 19 per cent.

On 28 June, my right hon. Friend announced that the value of the training bursary for students taking PGCE courses in mathematics will be raised to £7,000 from September 2005, and that the Golden Hello for mathematics will also rise to £5,000 for those starting PGCEs from 2005–06. On 12 July, parallel measures for science were announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The effectiveness of the current recruitment incentives for modern languages, music and other subjects will be kept under review and any changes announced at the appropriate time.

Unitised Courses (Further Education)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to permit modules and unitised courses in further education colleges. [184303]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: Colleges of further education are already permitted to offer unitised courses. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will fund unitised programmes for adult learners that consist of units of approved qualifications. The LSC generally expects the learning aim for young people to be a full qualification.

Weston-Super-Mare After-school Facilities

Brian Cotter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has for after-school facilities for young people in Weston-Super-Mare constituency. [183818]

Mr. Miliband: The Government's objective is that all schools should offer a programme of out of school hours study support. For 2004–05, all local education authorities and schools have received government funding through the School Development Grant to support such activities. Somerset LEA has received a total School Development Grant of £6,588,122. It is for local authorities and schools to determine what provision will best meet the needs of the young people in the area.

In addition, the Big Lottery Fund awarded an out of school hours learning school sports co-ordinator grant to Wyvern Community College in September 2002. This grant runs to 2005 and aims to benefit 33 schools in the Weston-Super-Mare area.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what efforts his Department is making in conjunction with the Afghanistan Government to promote education in Afghanistan. [183713]

Hilary Benn: In agreement with the Afghan Transitional Administration, the UK focuses its efforts on a limited number of areas. DFID is currently working to build the capacity of key line ministries, promote rural development and sustainable rural livelihoods, enable effective governance and economic management and facilitate security sector reform.

DFID does, though, provide significant resources through both our contributions to multilateral organisations and as direct contributions to the Afghan Reconstruction Fund (£30 million 2003–04; £45 million in 2004–05), which supports Afghanistan's wider development needs, including in education.

Since the fall of the Taliban, more than 4 million children have returned to school, 37 per cent. of which are girls. There are now 70,000 teachers (1/3 are women) and 6,500 schools. In March 2002, 20,000 students sat university entrance exams.

HIV/AIDS

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the most recent figures collected by the World Health Organisation are for *(a)* the number of people suffering from AIDS and *(b)* the countries most affected. [184242]

Hilary Benn: The most recent figures available are those given in the UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) "4th Global Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic" which will be deposited in the Libraries of the House shortly. The report is the product of data collected by both UNAIDS and WHO (World Health Organisation).

Today, some 37.8 million people (range: 34.6–42.3 million) are living with HIV and AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the hardest hit region with an estimated 25 million people infected with HIV. The countries most affected are: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

India

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response he will make to the United Nations Development Programme estimate that 223 million Indians do not have enough to eat. [184068]

Hilary Benn: Although India has achieved self-sufficiency in food at a national level, chronic hunger remains due to problems of access and distribution. There are an estimated 233 million (1998–2000) undernourished people, with particular problems among women, scheduled castes, adolescent girls and under-fives (over 50 per cent. undernourished).

DFID is committed to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. DFID's Country Assistance Plan for India recognises the challenge associated with the hunger MDG target and has supported analysis of food security in India and other Asian countries. DFID-supported programmes in India that most directly impact on hunger poverty include rural livelihoods projects that reduce the vulnerability of poor people and their access to services (total of 154 million over seven projects) and support to government's primary education programmes including the mid-day meals scheme. DFID India also supports the Indian government to promote pro-poor economic growth, which is closely associated with the reduction of both income poverty and hunger.

Malaria

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes the Government are supporting for the eradication of malaria; and what means are being used to remove malaria breeding grounds in Africa. [183593]

Hilary Benn: There is no magic bullet for eradicating malaria. Removing malaria-breeding sites has proved to be a poor strategy for most countries in Africa. A few have tried, using approaches such as larva eating fish in water tanks and water management programmes, but the results have been mixed. Early attempts in the 1950s to eradicate malaria have been tempered by the complexities of the disease and its vector—the mosquito. The global strategy has shifted to one of control rather than eradication: to 'roll back' malaria. Any strategy needs to take into account many factors: man, climate, mosquito and parasite. The main components of an effective response are to ensure early effective treatment, and to prevent mosquito bites through the use of insecticide-treated bed nets. Malaria parasites are developing very high levels of resistance to one drug after another. Therefore, continued drug research and development is necessary.

Nevertheless, effective low-cost strategies are available for malaria treatment, prevention and control. The Roll Back Malaria (RBM) global partnership is vigorously promoting them in Africa. Insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) can reduce malaria transmission, and lives can be saved by prompt access to treatment with effective up-to-date medicines such as artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs). The Department for International Development (DFID) is actively engaged in the international effort to control malaria. DFID is providing £48 million to RBM for the period 1999 to 2004 and has have pledged £140 million for the period 2005–08 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Since 1997, DFID has committed £1.5 billion to support health systems strengthening globally.

While national governments determine their own drug policies, DFID fully supports the World Health Organisation's recommendation to scale up the use of the more effective ACTs as the first line of treatment where there is significant resistance to traditional anti-malarial drugs. DFID is also supporting the RBM Partnership in developing a "road map" to increase

access to ACTs and also supports a number of public-private partnerships with industry to research and bring new anti-malarial drugs to the market.

Palestine

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* financial and *(b)* food assistance his Department is offering to the Palestinian Authority in (i) West Bank and (ii) Gaza. [183690]

Hilary Benn: Planned development expenditure for Palestinians this financial year is £28.5 million. £16.15 million of this is planned for technical assistance and financial support to the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian Civil Society. This covers both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. DFID's funds are not specifically allocated to either area. £12.35 million is planned for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. This provides basic services for Palestinian refugees in the region, including food assistance for the most needy refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Polio

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on eradicating polio in Africa. [183714]

Hilary Benn: The UK is fully committed to eradicating polio. DFID has been working with G8 partners, other donors and the World Health Organisation-led Global Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) to help ensure that there is sufficient financial and political commitment to eradicate polio by end 2005. Since 1988 the UK has contributed some £225 million (including bilateral commitments) to the PEI out of a total global commitment of US $3 billion. Through DFID's country programmes, we support national efforts in Africa to step-up polio immunisation, and strengthen health systems and routine immunisation. Since 1997, the UK has committed £1.5 billion to strengthening health systems globally.

Already millions of children have been spared the crippling effects of polio and only six countries remain polio-endemic (including Egypt, Niger and Nigeria), compared with 125 in 1988. However this progress is now at risk following the importation of the poliovirus into 10 previously polio-free countries across Africa.

DFID welcomes the decision by 22 African nations in May, to launch a massive immunisation effort to prevent a possible epidemic in the region. DFID has been working closely with the PEI and other donors to secure the funding and political commitment necessary to support the efforts of affected countries and to resolve the risks to the polio eradication campaign. At the Sea Island summit in June, G8 members including the UK promised to take all necessary steps to eradicate polio by 2005. The UK holds the G8 Presidency in 2005 and we shall maintain the momentum needed to ensure that the G8 and other public and private donors provide sufficient political and financial resources to eradicate polio once and for all.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Aerial Appliances (Fire Safety)

Mrs. Mahon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what full review the West Yorkshire Fire Service has undertaken since 1994 and prior to the present review of aerial appliance provision in accordance with guidance issued in DCOL 1/1994; what the outcomes were; what empirical evidence was used in previous reviews and how it differed from the present review; what over-provision in *(a)* the number and type of appliances and *(b)* crewing patterns were identified by the chief fire officer in past reviews; and whether these options for reduction were brought to the attention of the fire authority. [184343]

Mr. Raynsford: Following receipt of DCOL 1/94 guidance, aerial appliance provision was reviewed in West Yorkshire in 1994 and 2002. Any further information on the outcomes of the reviews should be directed to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

Mrs. Mahon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the West Yorkshire Fire Service has identified appropriate response standards with regard to attendance times for aerial appliances following the removal of national standards; what the attendance times for aerial appliances within the Halifax area will be; what the attendance times for aerial back up to Halifax will be if the appliance is unavailable owing to the dual crewing proposal; and which dual pump/aerial appliances have been identified as presenting a suitable alternative to the present arrangements. [184344]

Mr. Raynsford: The Integrated Risk Management Plan proposes that, with the withdrawal of DCOL 1/94 guidance, aerial attendance times can now be based on the same premise as other special appliances, i.e. as fast an attendance as possible based on strategic location. Information about attendance times for appliances in Halifax would best be directed to West Yorkshire Fire Service.

Mrs. Mahon: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what risk assessments have been undertaken prior to the removal of the attendance of aerial appliances from automatic fire alarm actuations; what effect he estimates these will have on *(a)* commercial and *(b)* residential properties and occupiers' fire safety plans; and what effect he expects the reduction in aerial appliances to have on (i) standard operating procedures when attending incidents in high rise premises and (ii) the time taken before intervention by firefighters. [184345]

Mr. Raynsford: A comprehensive review of all operational activity over the past five years has been undertaken by West Yorkshire Fire Authority. A formal consultation exercise is currently ongoing in relation to the findings of this review. It concludes on 13 September and includes representative bodies, local authorities and neighbouring brigades. Standard operating procedures relevant to high rise, commercial and residential properties are not based upon the use of an aerial appliance, however, if one is needed it can be called upon. Occupiers' fire safety plans have no dependence on the attendance of an aerial appliance.

Brownfield Sites

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the time taken by the Environment Agency to give consent to plans for the cleaning up of brownfield sites; and if he will make a statement. [183473]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister works closely with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and with the Environment Agency on issues relating to the treatment and disposal of contaminated soils in order to achieve the timely and effective remediation of brownfield land.

Children (Temporary Accommodation)

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many children were living in temporary accommodation in Hampshire in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [183662]

Phil Hope: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly, although the number of children living in temporary accommodation is not available.

Information on the number of households that contain dependent children and/or expectant mothers in various types of temporary accommodation has been collected since March 2002. The following table shows the number of households in temporary accommodation in Hampshire since March 2002 and how many of these households contained dependent children and/or an expectant mother.

Homeless households in temporary accommodation in Hampshire, and those that include dependent[1] children

As at 31 March	*All households*	*Households with dependant[1] children*
2002	2,200	1,300
2003	2,500	1,600
2004	2,500	2,000

[1] Includes households with an expectant mother.

Note:
Rounded totals include estimates for any non-response.

Source:
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly).

Departmental Publications

Dr. Cable: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many departmental publications are in storage; and where they are located. [183875]

Phil Hope: There are currently some 1,470 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's publication titles held at the Office's distribution contractor's premises near Wetherby, West Yorkshire. This comprises free and priced material, and includes posters, alternative language versions, and other media such as video and audiocassette, and some where there is no physical stock but copies are available on demand.

There are also some 100 non-parliamentary Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's publication titles published and distributed by the commercial publisher, TSO, on behalf of Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. These are held in South West London, although decisions on retention and storage are a matter for the publisher who may also rely on the use of on-demand printing facilities to meet the demand for copies.

Fire Service

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Local Government Minister next plans to meet firefighters' representatives to discuss the industrial dispute. [184030]

Mr. Raynsford: The firefighters' industrial dispute is primarily a matter between the Fire and Rescue Services Employers and the Fire Brigades Union. I have no plans to discuss the dispute with firefighters' representatives.

Green Belt

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has regarding Green Belt provision in the Thames Gateway development area. [183477]

Phil Hope: Policy on Green Belt provision in the Thames Gateway is no different from any other area of England. The Government remain committed to maintaining or increasing the amount of Green Belt in every region. Any proposals for changes to Green Belt boundaries should be considered through the development plan process and exceptional circumstances will need to be demonstrated before such changes are approved. In addition, Green Belt policies set out in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) note 2 will continue to apply to any planning applications for the development of Green Belt land in the Thames Gateway.

One of the key features of the Thames Gateway as a suitable location for sustainable development is the presence of a substantial reservoir of previously developed and brownfield land. The Gateway is estimated to contain some 2 per cent. of the land area of the South East but 17 per cent. of its current supply of previously developed land. In all, it contains 3,000 hectares of brownfield sites—the largest such resource of previously developed land close to a capital city in Europe.

The national target for development on previously developed land is 60 per cent. In the period 1997–2000, an estimated 80 per cent. of new dwellings in the Gateway were built on previously developed land. The targeted investment now being mobilised through funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Department for Transport and Regional Development Agencies aims to maintain this trend by increasing the viability and potential development density on key sites in the Gateway.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the provision of transport infrastructure for the Thames Gateway development area; and if he will make a statement. [183478]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Department for Transport have regular discussions regarding transport infrastructure in the Thames Gateway, both at official and ministerial level.

Government have already committed £600 million to transport schemes in the Thames Gateway. Committed schemes include the Docklands Light Railway extension to City airport; dual carriageway development of A228 in Grain; the first phase of West Thurrock ring road; and the A249 (Iwade to Queensborough) second Swale Crossing in Kent.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his assessment is of the impact of the provision of transport infrastructure in the Thames Gateway development area on the green belt. [183479]

Phil Hope: Policy on Green Belt in the Thames Gateway is no different from any other area of England. The Government remain committed to maintaining or increasing the amount of Green Belt in every region. Any proposals for changes to Green Belt boundaries should be considered through the development plan process and exceptional circumstances will need to be demonstrated before such changes are approved. In addition, Green Belt policies set out in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) note 2 will continue to apply to any planning applications for the development of Green Belt land in the Thames Gateway.

Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 13 on Transport also applies in the Thames Gateway as elsewhere. It states that care must be taken to avoid or minimise the environmental impact of any new transport infrastructure projects, and that wherever possible appropriate measures should be implemented to mitigate their impacts. For transport proposals such as roads and rail lines, which are likely to have significant environmental effects, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required before development consent is granted.

Housing

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of housing waiting lists in the South West; and what action he intends to take to reduce waiting lists in the south-west. [183992]

Keith Hill: Social housing waiting lists are a key part of the evidence considered by local housing authorities in preparing assessments of local housing need. These assessments are used by the authorities in developing their housing strategies. The provision of new affordable housing is the number one priority of the South West Housing Body who will be investing £188 million in 2004–05 and 2005–06 to deliver over 6,000 affordable homes across the south-west region.

Mr. Flook: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to facilitate an increase in the number of housing units made available *(a)* in Taunton Deane by (i) Taunton Deane borough council and (ii) housing associations and *(b)* in West Somerset by housing associations. [184637]

Keith Hill: The South West Housing Body (SWHB) has allocated £733,000 to Taunton Deane borough council in 2004–05 to support capital expenditure on housing including the provision of new affordable homes. The SWHB through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme (ADP) has allocated £2.4 million over the 2004–05 and 2005–06 financial years. This will enable housing associations to deliver around 84 affordable homes in the District of Taunton Deane. The SWHB has also allocated through the ADP £2.02 million over 2004–05 and 2005–06 which will enable housing associations to deliver around 47 affordable homes in the District of West Somerset.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the estimates he has made of increases in housing supply take account of the protection of Green Belt land. [183472]

Keith Hill: Yes.

Local Community Partnerships

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will ensure that, when local community partnerships are sponsoring a major flagship regeneration project in their area, they engage in a full and open public consultation programme, including public meetings with their local communities. [182016]

Phil Hope: The term "local community partnerships" covers a wide spectrum of arrangements for partnership working, not all of which are subject to guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. However where we have the lead on local partnership working, guidance always stresses the need for community consultation, involvement and engagement. Any project which involves development will be subject to approval through the planning system. There are extensive requirements for public consultation and engagement in planning decisions. New requirements are being introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for each local authority to produce a 'Statement of Community Involvement' setting out how it will engage the community in both plan making and major decisions. For Neighbourhood Renewal policies and programmes—such as New Deal for Communities or Neighbourhood Management—community involvement is an indispensable element and partnerships could not expect continuing support if they failed to apply guidance.

Toll Roads

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the proposed new toll road linking Birmingham and Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [183476]

Keith Hill: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was consulted on the proposal. This proposal is consistent with the recent Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands. This Guidance, which incorporates the regional Transport Strategy, recognises the need for the widening of M6 from junctions 11a to 19. The consultation paper issued by the Secretary of State for Transport makes clear that before any decisions are taken, a careful assessment will be made of the wider social, economic and environmental impacts of any potential scheme, and of the scope for high quality measures to mitigate environmental impacts.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Accountancy Advice

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182264]

Jane Kennedy: DWP was established in June 2001. Information on the number of contracts and respective fees is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

We are, however, able to provide total spend by this Department with these accountancy firms as follows. Information for 2003–04 is not yet available.

£ million

	2001–02 (estimate)[1]	*2002–03*
Deloitte and Touche	8.1	4.2
Ernst and Young	[2]2.3	3.5
KPMG	1.1	2.6
PricewaterhouseCoopers	0.5	1.4

[1] The figures for 2001–02 are for the complete year and are estimates of the spend for the legacy organisations.
[2] Cap Gemini Ernst and Young.

New Deal

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total expenditure on each New Deal programme has been in the period 1997–98 to 2003–04; and, of this, how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental administrative costs and *(b)* payments to external providers. [177523]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested on the total expenditure on each New Deal programme and departmental administrative costs is in the DWP Departmental Report 2004 which is available in the Library.

Information on payments to external providers is in the table.

Payments to external providers

£ million

	1997–98[1]	*1998–99*[1]	*1999–2000*[1]	*2000–01*[1]	*2001–02*[1]	*2002–03*[1]	*2003–04*[2]
New Deal for young people	12	98	174	214	159	150	180
New Deal 25 plus	n/a	12	28	24	99	96	115
New Deal for over 50s	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	2	2	3
New Deal for lone parents	n/a	n/a	2	3	1	4	3
New Deal for disabled people	n/a	n/a	15	6	1	16	26
New Deal for partners	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	0	0

[1] Outturn
[2] Forecast outturn
Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of expenditure on payments to external providers in each New Deal scheme in each year since 1997–98, broken down by *(a)* overhead costs, *(b)* profits, *(c)* payment to other providers and *(d)* other payments for which information is available. [177524]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on each New Deal programme in 2003–04, broken down by *(a)* subsidies to employers, *(b)* payments to external providers, *(c)* payments to participants and *(d)* departmental administrative costs. [177531]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is in the table.

New Deal forecast-outturn by expenditure type 2003–04

£ million

Total expenditure	*Subsidies to employers*	*Payment to external providers*	*Payments to participants*	*Departmental administrative costs*
New Deal for young people	12	180	65	93
New Deal 25 plus	10	115	58	62
New Deal for over 50s	0	3	1	5
New Deal for lone parents	0	3	16	47
New Deal for disabled people	0	26	1	15
New Deal for partners	0	0	0	4

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Departmental Estate

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what has been the total floor space area of buildings owned or leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies for each year from 1997 to date. [181398]

Jane Kennedy: The information that is available about floor space is held at departmental level only and is provided in the following table.

A detailed record of the size of the former DSS estate is available since 1 April 1998, when the estate was re-measured and agreed under contractual terms following its transfer to our private sector partners, LandSecurities Trillium (LST), under the PRIME (Private sector Resource Initiative for the Management of the Estate) PFI contract.

Information about the size of the former Employment Service estate is available only from April 2004 subsequent to a further detailed measuring exercise undertaken when the PRIME PFI contract was extended to include the former Employment Service estate. Information prior to this date is not available and can be constructed only at disproportionate cost.

Size of DSS estate—April 1998 to 31 March 2004, size of DWP estate from April 2004

Departmental (estate) DSS	*April:*	*PRIME[1] M²*	*Non PRIME[2] M²*	*Total size (million m² rounded)*
DSS	1998	1,600,000.00	115,000.00	1.715
DSS	1999	1,575,253.08	112,000.00	1.687
DSS	2000	1,564,627.26	110,000.00	1.675
DSS[3]	2001	1,569,265.98	108,000.00	1.677
DSS	2002	1,589,457.00	107,000.00	1.696
DSS	2003	1,627,182.03	105,000.00	1.732
DWP	2004	2,481,539.62	108,000.00	2.590

[1] PRIME space is occupied under the terms of the PRIME PFI contract and includes space occupied by Other Government Departments (OGDs) within DWP buildings.
[2] Non PRIME space is where DWP has a part occupation in the building of another Government Department not managed by LST.
[3] The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001.

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr. David Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated regarding (i) the extent to which blind and partially sighted people are excluded from paid employment in the UK and (ii) the attitudes of employers and service providers towards blind and partially-sighted people. [182538]

Maria Eagle: This Department is responsible for a programme of research in respect of disability and employment, including research that produces findings on people who are blind or partially sighted. In addition, the Department undertakes regular analysis of the Labour Force Survey in order to calculate employment rates for visually impaired people.

"Disability in the Workplace: Employers' and Service Providers' responses to the DDA in 2003 and preparation for 2004 changes" by Roberts et al (DWP Research Report Series no. 202) asked employers about their attitudes towards employing someone with impaired vision; this research suggested that employers attitudes towards this group tended to be relatively negative, compared to other groups. A copy of this report is in the Library.

The Government are committed to increasing employment rates for all disabled people, and blind and partially-sighted people have full access to the services of Jobcentre Plus. However, we recognise that more needs to be done to raise awareness of employers' responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act; we are conducting a wide-ranging campaign to raise awareness among employers and service providers of current and forthcoming duties and to highlight the benefits that disabled employees can bring to a business.

Pension Credit (Northampton, North)

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Northampton, North are in receipt of the pension credit. [183753]

Malcolm Wicks: At the end of June, 4,035 pensioner households in Northampton, North, comprising 4,900 individuals, were in receipt of pension credit.

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest five.
2. The figure for individuals in receipt of pension credit includes a small number of partners under age 60.

Environmental Sustainability

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of the Department have spent on water and sewerage services for each year from 1997 to date. [181396]

Mr. Pond: Expenditure for water and sewerage services for the Department since it came into being in 2001, including all its agencies, is given in the following table:

£

	Water	*Sewerage*
2001–02	1,403,739	1,853,059
2002–03	1,527,777	1,893,489

Note:
It is not possible to provide an accurate breakdown by agency, due to multi-occupancy buildings.

The figures for 2003–04 are in the process of being finalised and will be placed in the Library in due course.

The Department continues to report its progress on the Water Service targets within the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government estate within the annual Sustainable Development in Government Report. Copies of the report can be found on the Sustainable Development in Government website.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which non-office sites within his Department's estate have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings. [181448]

Mr. Pond: The whole of the Department for Work and Pensions' estate is designated as office based. This information is reported in the Sustainable Development

in Government Second Annual Report 2003, copies of which can be found on the Sustainable Development in Government website.

Stakeholder Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many businesses with more than five employees are not complying with legislation on the provision of employees with access to a stakeholder pension. [182074]

Malcolm Wicks: The requirement to designate a stakeholder pension scheme applies to all firms with five or more employees who do not provide their workforce with access to a company pension scheme that would otherwise exempt them. Estimates of the number of firms who were compliant with the requirement to designate have previously been based on cumulative quarterly data from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) these figures have now become out of date.

More recent data from the 2003 Employers Pension Provision Survey and from the DTI Small Business Service has enabled us to update our estimate of the level of compliance with the requirement for employers with five or more staff to offer their workers access to a stakeholder pension scheme.

On the basis of these we estimate that some 70,000 employers may not be compliant with the requirement to designate a stakeholder pension scheme at any one time[1].

We will continue to work with employers so they are aware of the important role they play in helping their employees provide for their retirement. If this proves unsuccessful we will consider further measures.

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000 firms

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many businesses have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* successfully prosecuted for failing to provide employees with access to a stakeholder pension. [182130]

Malcolm Wicks: The great majority of employers are complying with the requirement to designate a stakeholder pension scheme. The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (Opra) has taken a proactive approach, engaging with employers to encourage them to comply with the law, rather than resorting to legal proceedings. Civil sanctions (fines) are only considered where there is a serious breach or the employer is considered to be deliberately evading the law.

So far Opra has only needed to fine two employers. One of these employers has asked Opra for a review of the decision. The review has yet to take place.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many individuals received a grant from the Arts Council England in the last year worth *(a)* under £1,000, *(b)* between £1,000 to £4,999, *(c)* between £5,000 to £9,999, *(d)* between £10,000 to £19,999, *(e)* between £20,000 to £49,999, *(f)* between £50,000 to £99,999 and *(g)* over £100,000. [183557]

Estelle Morris: The table, supplied by Arts Council England, provides a breakdown of the information requested.

Grants for the Arts, Individuals: 31 March 2003 to 1 April 2004

Award amount	*Number of awards*	*Total amount awarded (£)*
under £1,000	301	173,056
between £1,000 to £4,999	762	2,438,520
between £5,000 to £9,999	240	1,442,221
between £10,000 to £19,999	63	881,019
between £20,000 to £49,999	25	662,086
between £50,000 to £99,999	2	114,560
over £100,000	0	0
Total Awards	1,393	5,711,462

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how individual recipients of Arts Council England grants are accountable for the way they spend their grant. [183558]

Estelle Morris: All recipients of Arts Council England grants are subject to a set of Standard Conditions for Grants, available on Arts Council England's website www.artscouncil.org.uk. If any of these conditions are not met, recipients may have to pay back all or part of their grant.

To ensure the conditions are being followed, all recipients are monitored and must provide regular progress reports and accounts.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what purposes recording artists have received a grant from Arts Council England since 1997. [183560]

Estelle Morris: Arts Council England does not have a specific funding category for the award of grants to recording artists and therefore does not hold records of this nature.

Grants can be awarded to recording artists for the purpose of rehearsing, performing, touring and recording.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of running her Department's canteen facilities in *(a)* 1997–98 and *(b)* the last year for which figures are available. [184376]

Mr. Caborn: The information is as follows:

(a) DCMS did not have a canteen in 1997–98.

(b) A catering facility was opened in 2001, and in the 2003–04 year, cost £67,431.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's expenditure was on *(a)* head-hunters and recruitment consultants and *(b)* management consultants in (i) 1997–98 and (ii) the last year for which figures are available. [184371]

Mr. Caborn: The table shows departmental expenditure on management consultants. An analysis of expenditure on head-hunters and recruitment consultants is not recorded on the Department's accounting system and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	£
1997–98	113,527.53
2003–04	[1]10,170.94

[1] Provisional pending finalisation of annual accounts.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost has been of renovation and refurbishment of Department-owned buildings since May 1997. [184374]

Mr. Caborn: A total of £1,547,000 has been spent on refurbishment and changes to two occupied buildings to meet operational needs. Fitting-out works prior to occupation of a further two buildings were undertaken by the landlords. A further £120,000 was spent in compliance with lease requirements and £153,000 was spent to replace obsolete fire warning/alarm systems.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department spent on *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* hospitality in (i) 1997–98 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [184407]

Mr. Caborn: The information requested is contained in the following table. All expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government guidance. In 2002–03 changes were made in the way hospitality expenditure was captured to include associated staff costs following the contracting out of the hospitality service. Figures for 2004–05 are not available at present.

	£	
	Mobile telephones	*Hospitality*
1997–98	[1]—	15,269.81
2003–04	35,000	[2]78,144.29

[1] It is not possible to provide an expenditure figure for mobile telephones in 1997–98 save at disproportionate cost.

[2] Provisional pending finalisation of annual accounts.

European Football Championships

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which members of the Government attended the European Football Championships in an official capacity. [183561]

Mr. Caborn: Three members of the Government attended the European Football Championships in an official capacity—the Home Secretary; the Secretary of State and myself.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Government Officials visited the European Football Championships in Portugal in an official capacity. [183562]

Mr. Caborn: 11 Government Officials in total visited the European Football Championships in an official capacity. Three of these Officials were stationed in Portugal throughout the tournament to deal with any disorder issues.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost was of ministerial visits to the European Football Championships in Portugal; and what the transport costs were. [183563]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS Ministerial visits to the European Championships in Portugal amount to £6,068. The total includes £589 for transport costs while in Portugal.

Historic Houses

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the contribution of historic houses to the UK's tourist industry. [183438]

Mr. Caborn: English Heritage's State of the Historic Environment Report, Heritage Counts 2003, which is available at www.heritagecounts.org.uk, addresses tourism and the historic environment (Chapter 2.7, pp. 49–55).

The historic environment sector is also developing a set of key indicators for the management and use of the historic environment. One of these will measure the economic contribution of historic attractions to the tourism industry in England.

Olympic Games

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which hon. Members were invited to attend the Olympic Torch Parade Concert in the Mall. [183564]

Mr. Caborn: The British Olympic Association and the Greater London Authority invited my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and myself.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which members of the Government *(a)* were invited to attend and *(b)* attended the Olympic Torch parade concert in the Mall. [183565]

Mr. Caborn: The Greater London Authority and the British Olympic Association invited my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and myself. The Secretary of State attended the start of the Olympic Torch Relay at the All England Tennis Club and the Torch Relay Concert in the Mall.

Sporting Centres of Excellence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the sporting centres of excellence in England; and if she will make a statement. [183594]

Mr. Caborn: A number of sporting centres of excellence have been developed in England following Sport England's announcement in 1999 to commit £120 million from the Lottery to invest in the capital

development of the English Institute of Sport (EIS)—a nationwide network of world-class facilities and support services. In addition, sporting centres of excellence for athletics also exist in London at St. Mary's College and Brunei university. The following centres have been developed as a result of investment in the EIS.

EIS capital programme

Site	*Sport*	*Facility provision*
University of Birmingham	Hockey	Water-based hockey pitch—2 upgrades
University of Birmingham	Squash	7-court upgrade
Birmingham CC	Athletics	Indoor Athletics Centre, 132m straight and throw/jump area
Birmingham CC	Multi	Improvement to NIA
Polo Farm Sports Club/Canterbury Hockey Clubs	Hockey	Water-based pitch and floodlighting
University of Bath	Multi	Sports Science/Sports Med Equipment
University of Bath	Swimming	8 Lane 50m pool
University of Bath	Bobsleigh	Simulated start
University of Bath	Athletics	Indoor 132m Athletics Centre
Cannock Cricket and Hockey Club	Hockey	Water-based hockey pitch
Hayling Island Sailing Club	Sailing	New Club and Sports Science Facilities
Exeter University	Hockey	Water Based pitch
Loughborough University	Swimming	50m 8-lane pool, seminar room, sports science lab and other ancillary facilities
Loughborough University	Hockey	Water-based pitch
Loughborough University	Netball/Badminton	12 court sports hall
Loughborough University	Athletics	Indoor 132m Straight and throws/jumps area.
Loughborough University	Cricket	National Academy
Loughborough University	Multi	Sports Science/Sports Med Centre
Manchester City Council	Swimming	10 x 50m pool, 6 x 50m pool, diving pool.
Manchester City Council	Athletics	Indoor 200m track. Outdoor 400m track.
Manchester City Council	Generic	Fit out of EIS North West area
Rutland Sailing Club	Sailing	RYA National Training Venue
Nottingham Squash and Rackets Club	Squash	Nottingham Squash Rackets Club—extension
East Grinstead	Hockey	Water-based pitch
Phoenix Sports Ltd.	Multi	EIS Sheffield Centre, including indoor 200m track, sports halls, sports science, strength and conditioning suite
Caversham Lakes Company	Rowing	Redgrave Pinsent Rowing lake—2000m rowing lake, ancillary accommodation.
Leeds Met University	Gymnastics	Men's centre
Haringey	Athletics	Equipment and upgrade of New River Stadium
Southampton CC	Diving	Southampton pool upgrade
Deerness Gym Club	Gymnastics	Acrobat centre
Badminton Association of England	Badminton	Upgrade national centre at Milton Keynes
Durham Hockey Club	Hockey	Upgrade of Pitch to Water based
Reading HC	Hockey	Upgrade of Pitch to Water based
Wakefield Hockey Club	Hockey	Water based hockey pitch
Surrey County Council	Hockey	Upgrade to water based pitch
Sports Council Trust	Multi	Redevelopment of Bisham Abbey Sports facilities, water based hockey pitch, strength and conditioning suite, sports science.
Gorton GC	Gymnastics	Gorton Gymnastics Centre Upgrade
Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy	Sailing	Weymouth Sailing Academy—Sailing Centre.
SC Trust/Sport England—Lilleshall	Multi	Multi development of gym and EIS. Also on site; Gymnastics Centre, athlete accommodation, sports science operation, sports hall, specialist 100m projectile hall. Water based hockey pitch.
SC Trust/Sport England—Holme Pierrepoint	Multi	2000m rowing lake, canoe slalom course, accommodation and conference block, sports hall and conditioning facilities
SC Trust/Sport England	Multi	Crystal Palace National Sports Centre: outdoor 400m track, indoor sprint straight, 50m pool, sports hall, weights room, sports science.
Wolverhampton University	Judo	2/4-mat dedicated centre
Lee Valley Park Authority	Athletics/EIS	Athletics/EIS
British Cycling Federation	Cycling	Accommodation and support areas at Manchester Velodrome. Full competition specification track
Chelmsford HC	Hockey	Upgrade of Pitch to Water based

Sports Funding

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has *(a)* to improve funding for development of talent in (i) tennis, (ii) cricket and (iii) other sports and *(b)* to initiate programmes to improve interest in those sports, especially among the younger generation. [183271]

Mr. Caborn: As part of the joint DCMS/DfES national strategy for PE, School Sport and Clubs Links; the DCMS are investing £9 million to increase the percentage of five to 16 year-olds from School Sport Partnerships who are members of, or participate in governing body or otherwise accredited amateur sports clubs from 14 per cent. (2002) to 20 per cent. by 2006. This is being delivered by 22 sports: Athletics, badminton, basketball, canoeing, cricket, cycling, golf, football, gymnastics, hockey, judo, netball, orienteering, rowing, rugby union, rugby league, sailing, squash, table tennis, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

DCMS also recently launched the Talented Athletes Scholarship Scheme. This is a £3 million exchequer funded programme that sits between school and junior representative sport, and world-class programmes across 48 able bodied and disabled performance sports, including cricket and tennis. The programme has been specifically designed to help talented athletes aged

between 16 and 25 years to maintain a sensible balance between academic life or employment while fulfilling their potential as an athlete. The first awards will be made this September comprising scholarships worth up to £3,000 in sporting services and bursaries to the value of £1,000, delivered through a network of Higher and Further Education Institutions.

In addition, Sport England's World Class Potential and Start programmes, introduced in 1998, already provides funding to over 30 sports in England for the development of talent. As part of this programme Cricket receives £2 million per annum for the development of talented players at county and national academy level. However Tennis has not been a recipient of this programme.

Tourism

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the West Midlands since 1997 from *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* Sweden, *(d)* Belgium, *(e)* USA, *(f)* Canada, *(g)* Japan, *(h)* Singapore, *(i)* India and *(j)* Australia. [183568]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to the West Midlands by residents of the relevant countries, in each year since 1997, are shown in the following table.

Visits to the West Midlands by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
France	113	93	119	102	120	180	129
Germany	153	149	125	170	133	125	176
Sweden	20	16	11	24	13	30	22
Belgium	20	46	31	30	27	40	33
USA	102	164	145	136	110	131	106
Canada	33	29	46	39	43	33	46
Japan	8	11	10	8	7	9	5
Singapore	4	3	5	5	1	5	5
India	9	10	14	14	9	10	20
Australia	42	29	32	46	31	35	35

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists she estimates have visited the East Midlands since 1997 from *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Sweden, *(c)* France, *(d)* USA, *(e)* Canada, *(f)* Singapore, *(g)* India, *(h)* Australia and *(i)* Belgium. [183569]

Mr. Caborn: The number of visits to the East Midlands by residents of the relevant countries, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table.

Visits to the East Midlands by year

Thousand[1]

Country of residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Germany	91	83	106	127	77	91	113
Sweden	15	16	9	14	17	16	20
France	82	83	88	83	83	82	110
USA	117	106	96	104	91	107	113
Canada	28	27	24	31	35	34	34
Singapore	5	5	3	3	2	4	3
India	7	6	7	6	8	13	7
Australia	40	36	41	37	35	34	38
Belgium	34	32	31	23	29	38	35

[1] Figures taken from the International Passenger Survey which is run by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for regional visits by nationality are often based on small samples, which may lead to high margins of error, and should therefore be regarded as approximate estimates.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research her Department has commissioned relating to the promotion of the British countryside as a tourist destination for foreigners. [184048]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has not commissioned research of this kind. However, VisitBritain undertook a major research project in October 2003 in 11 key international markets with in-depth interviews of over 5,000 people. The aim was to work out what factors are important to potential foreign visitors for their holidays, and then assess how Britain fared on each factor.

Several aspects of the countryside were covered by the research. The results are still being processed, but initial results show that our landscape was considered in most markets, to be one of Britain's greatest strength's.

The research is used to help develop campaigns in the international marketplace to encourage more visitors to come to Britain. The countryside will feature strongly in

VisitBritain's upcoming campaigns—in particular the major "Touring Britain" and "Good Living Britain" promotions.

Young People (Summer Activities)

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on her Department's funded programme of summer activities for young people. [183338]

Mr. Caborn: The Department plays a key role in the management of Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP), a programme funded by The Big Lottery Fund (£12.5 million), Department for Education and Skills (£23.75 million), Home Office (£1.5 million) and the Youth Justice Board (£1 million). It was launched in spring 2003 and offers diversionary activities aimed at young people who are most at risk of offending. The programme provides the opportunity for them to participate in positive activities (throughout school holiday periods) that will both reduce their chances of offending and enable them to fulfil their potential in education, training or employment. The programme aims to provide 22,500 full-time equivalent places with key worker support for up to 7,500 young people. Success is measured by subsequent entry into education, training and employment.

TRANSPORT

Micro-light Aircraft

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will investigate the noise nuisance caused by micro-light aircraft; [183705]

(2) what complaints his Department has received about noise problems caused by the operation of micro-light aircraft in rural areas. [183706]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* The Department receives very few complaints about noise nuisance from micro-light aircraft, The Government have no plans to commission specific work into noise nuisance caused by micro-light aircraft. The policy on noise from micro-lights is the same as that for noise from other light aircraft, local solutions for local problems.

Air Passengers (Consumer Protection)

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the consumer protection available to travellers by air who pay *(a)* with a credit card and *(b)* with a debit card if travelling on a scheduled airline. [182802]

Mr. Darling: There is no statutory obligation for airlines to provide financial protection. Air travel organisers offering air travel packages or, in certain circumstances, seat-only flights have to hold an ATOL and secure a financial bond. The protection travellers enjoy when using a credit card in certain circumstances arises from the 1974 Consumer Credit Act rather than the ATOL scheme. The Act provides financial protection for purchases over £100 made using a credit card, but there are certain exclusions. There is no protection if the payment is made to an agent rather than directly to the airline, nor if payment is made on behalf of a third party such as a non-family member, nor in relation to groups of more than 19 people. There is no protection when a debit card is used.

British Transport Police

Mrs. Helen Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to provide direct funding for the British Transport Police from the Department of Transport; [181328]

(2) what evaluation he has made of the appropriateness and effectiveness of funding arrangements for the British Transport Police. [181330]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are currently reviewing the funding arrangements for the BTP and considering future funding options for the force as part of the rail review.

Harmonisation

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with EU partners in the last 12 months on the subject of harmonisation; and if he will make a statement. [179715]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 June 2004]:* The degree of harmonisation is often an issue in Council negotiations on proposed legislation.

Inner-city Rail Services

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information he has collated about the punctuality of inner-city rail services; and if he will make a statement. [183499]

Mr. McNulty: The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) publishes performance data by train operating company in its quarterly National Rail Trends (NRT). The latest publication covers performance to the year ending 31 March 2004 and is available in the Library of the House.

International Ship and Port Facility Security Code

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether all *(a)* UK flagged ships and *(b)* British ports are compliant with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. [184169]

Mr. Jamieson: All but one of the UK flagged ships that fall within the scope of the ISPS Code, is in possession of an International Ship Security Certificate. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency expects to inspect the one remaining ship shortly.

All major and high risk ports that fall within the scope of the ISPS Code handling international shipping are compliant. A small number of low risk ports have yet to have their plans approved, either because of very late submission or not meeting the required standard. We expect that these will all be approved within the next few weeks.

London Underground

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reason was for his Department's agreement to the aspect of the public-private partnership contract for the London Underground which allows for the completion of 50 per cent. of a given length of track renewal work in the time allotted; if he will undertake to meet the shortfall through grant allocations; and if he will make a statement. [183262]

Mr. McNulty: The PPP contracts for the modernisation of the London Underground require the private companies to deliver increased capacity and reliability from track, signalling and trains by set dates for each line. The contracts do not specify how much work should be done in a single possession: if the infracos achieve less, they will face increased costs and abatement of the infrastructure service charge paid by London Underground.

The Government have provided the underground with an unprecedented level of stable funding of, on average, more than £1 billion a year for the first seven and a half years of the PPP contracts. This is sufficient for LU to meet the infrastructure service charge paid to the infracos and, in turn, enable them to meet their contractual commitments.

Motoring Infringements

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* drivers without insurance and *(b)* cars (i) without MOT certificates and (ii) for which vehicle excise duty had not been paid in each year since 1997. [182165]

Mr. Jamieson: The information is as follows.

Insurance

Estimates from the insurance industry are that about 5 per cent. (approximately 1.25 million) motorists drive while uninsured.

MOT

It is estimated that approximately 10 per cent. of vehicles do not have a valid MOT certificate. However, the actual level of MOT evasion will be lower as the estimate includes vehicles for which a Statutory Off-Road Notification (SORN) has been registered. Evasion levels should reduce further next year when the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) roll out the MOT database which, when combined with the DVLA vehicle register, will allow enforcement authorities to detect vehicles without a valid MOT instantly.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Figures are not available oh an annualised basis. A Roadside Survey on Vehicle Excise Duty evasion is conducted periodically. The headline figures based on observation of vehicles in traffic for the most recent three surveys are as follows:

	Vehicle stock, percentage evasion in traffic
1994	3.0
1999	2.3
2002	2.7

From 2004 this survey will be conducted annually and the recent introduction of continuous registration is empowering the DVLA to take targeted action against evaders on the face of the vehicle record.

Rail Travel

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of the environmental impact of rail travel. [181672]

Mr. McNulty: The environmental impact of rail travel is presented in the following tabular form. The data come from the 2002–03 National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI). It is based on work carried out by the NAEI to analyse train emissions on specific routes. The values of emissions per passenger kilometre are representative of those particular types of trains. They are based on best estimates of train emission factors (g/kWh) from various industry sources.

Average UK figures for both electric and diesel passenger rail are presented as well as detailed data for specific types of trains with passenger loadings of 33 per cent. and 66 per cent. occupancy rates.

Grams per passenger km

	Passenger rail (average UK—electric and diesel)
CO_2	63
PM_{10}	0.016
CO	0.08
NO_x	0.32
SO_2	0.2
VOC	0.029

Grams per passenger km—33 per cent. occupancy

	CO_2	*PM_{10}*	*CO*	*NO_x*	*SO_2*	*VOC*
Class 357 Electric (commuter service)	34	0.002	0.02	0.08	n/k	0.002
HST Inter-city 125	96	0.033	0.38	1.27	n/k	0.141
Class 180 Adelante	80	0.013	0.36	0.63	n/k	0.099
Class 150 Sprinter DMU	46	n/k	0.05	0.63	n/k	0.031
Class 168 Turbostar DMU	75	0.013	0.11	0.64	n/k	0.027

Grams per passenger km—66 per cent. occupancy

	CO_2	*PM_{10}*	*CO*	*NO_x*	*SO_2*	*VOC*
Class 357 Electric (commuter service)	17	0.001	0.01	0.04	n/k	0.001
HST Inter-city 125	48	0.016	0.19	0.64	n/k	0.071
Class 180 Adelante	40	0.007	0.18	0.32	n/k	0.049

Grams per passenger km—66 per cent. occupancy

	CO_2	PM_{10}	CO	NO_x	SO_2	VOC
Class 150 Sprinter DMU	23	n/k	0.03	0.32	n/k	0.016
Class 168 Turbostar DMU	38	0.007	0.05	0.32	n/k	0.014

Emissions from electric trains have been estimated by applying NAEI emission factors for total emissions from power stations (all types) to the energy consumption of each train. Emissions from electric rail are therefore calculated by multiplying the emission factors by the amount of electricity used for traction. Electricity consumption for rail is taken from the Department of Trade and Industry's Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2003.

The implied power generation mix taken from DUKES is.

	Percentage
Gas	39
Nuclear	22
Coal	32
Hydro	1
Oil	1
Other fuels	3
Imports	2

Railway Stations (Car Parking)

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many stations on the rail network in England and Wales do not have car parking facilities; [183352]

(2) what plans he has to *(a)* improve and *(b)* increase car parking provision at railway stations. [183417]

Dr. Howells: There are 832 stations on the rail network in England and Wales that do not have a station car park.

The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) does not require train operators, as part of franchise agreements, to provide car parking facilities at stations. It is for train operators to decide and to make a commercial judgement on the cost of providing car parking facilities. Local authorities can also consider supporting the provision of car parking facilities as part of their integrated transport strategies.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers elected regional assemblies will have in transport matters; and if he will make a statement. [180445]

Mr. McNulty: The transport powers of elected regional assemblies were set out in the White Paper, "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions" (Cm5511).

Regional Rail Czars

Mr. Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the results of his announcement in January this year of the appointment of regional rail czars to oversee parts of the railway system. [181552]

Mr. McNulty: No such reference has been made by Ministers in January or any other month.

Road and Rail Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths occurred in 2003 on *(a)* the road network operated by the Highways Agency and *(b)* the passenger rail network. [182877]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* The total number of deaths that occurred in 2003 resulting from road traffic accidents as reported by the police on the trunk road and motorway network operated by the Highways Agency was 625.

The total number of deaths that occurred on the passenger rail network reported by the Health and Safety Executive in the financial year 2002 to 2003, the latest date for which information is available, was 306. (Including a total of 256 deaths resulting from trespass and suicide.)

During 2002–03, 50 people died in incidents on the passenger rail network. This figure includes train incidents (eg derailments), incidents resulting from train movements (eg fatalities at level crossings) and incidents not involving trains (eg falling down steps at station).

School Journeys

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of trips to school were *(a)* on foot, *(b)* by bus, *(c)* by car, *(d)* by other modes of transport, *(e)* by five to 10-year-olds, *(f)* by 11 to 16-year-olds and *(g)* by five to 16-year-olds in the last period for which figures are available; and what percentage of each were (i) under three miles and (ii) three miles and over in that period. [183825]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* The data requested are shown for 1999–2001. Data for 2002 are available, but are not shown as it is believed that walks under one mile were under-recorded that year due to changes in survey practice.

Trips to and from school by main mode and age: 1999–2001

Percentage

	5–10 years	*11–16 years*	*5–16 years*
Percentage of trips to/from school			
Walk	54	43	49
Bus	6	32	19
Car	39	19	29
Other	2	6	4
All	100	100	100
Percentage of trips under three miles			
Walk	100	99	100
Bus	47	31	33
Car	76	63	72

Trips to and from school by main mode and age: 1999–2001

Percentage

	5–10 years	*11–16 years*	*5–16 years*
Other	46	37	39
All	87	67	77

Source:
National Travel Survey, DfT

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Parliamentary Representation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women what assessment she has made of the difference in the proportion of women elected in the UK to the European Parliament and this House. [182762]

Ms Hewitt: 23 per cent. of UK's MEPs and 18 per cent. of the Members of this House are women. 37 per cent. of Labour MEPs, 50 per cent. of Liberal Democrat MEPs and 7.4 per cent. of Conservative MEPS are women. All UKIP MEPs are men. In the House of Commons women make up 23 per cent. of Labour MPS, 8.6 per cent. of Conservative MPs and 11 per cent. of Liberal Democrats.

In 2002 we introduced the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act which allows political parties to take positive measures towards women's increased participation. The Labour Part has already taken advantage of this new law to use positive action to increase the number of women candidates in both local and national elections, and in elections to the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament.

TREASURY

Small Businesses

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on measures in the comprehensive spending review to support small businesses. [184077]

Mr. Boateng: Small businesses will benefit from the Government's investment in work force skills, science, innovation and business support in this Spending Review. In particular, additional devolved funding will go to the Regional Development Agencies as they adopt, next April, responsibility for the delivery of business support services for small businesses in every region.

Inheritance Tax

13. **Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received about the reform of inheritance tax; and if he will make a statement. [184085]

Dawn Primarolo: We receive numerous representations on all aspects of the tax system.

World Poverty Reduction

14. **Clive Efford:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contribution the UK is making to meet the 2015 targets for reducing world poverty. [184087]

John Healey: As the Chancellor announced in the 2004 Spending Review statement, by 2007–08 total UK development assistance will reach nearly £6.5 billion, equal to 0.47 per cent. of Gross National Income. The Government wishes to maintain those rates of growth in the overseas aid ratio, which on this timetable would rise beyond 0.5 per cent. after 2008 and reach 0.7 per cent. by 2013.

90 per cent. of the increased resources will be spent in the world's poorest countries, including £1.25 billion each year in Africa by 2007–08. The UK will also spend £1.5 billion on HIV/AIDS related work over the next three years.

Overseas Development Assistance

15. **Mr. Pike:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had on increasing the share of overseas development assistance by 2008 in line with the UN target of 0.7 per cent. of gross national income. [184088]

John Healey: The Chancellor has received over 15,000 representations on the subject of development spending from a variety of organisations, including churches, faith groups and NGOs. As he announced in the 2004 Spending Review statement, by 2007–08 total UK development assistance will reach £6.5 billion, equal to 0.47 per cent. of gross national income. We wish to maintain those rates of growth in the overseas aid ratio, which on this timetable would rise beyond 0.5 per cent. after 2008 and reach 0.7 per cent. by 2013.

17. **Mr. Truswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the timetable for reaching the target of spending 0.7 per cent. of gross national income on aid by 2008. [184091]

John Healey: As the Chancellor announced in the 2004 Spending Review statement, by 2007–08 total UK development assistance will reach 0.47 per cent. of Gross National Income. We wish to maintain those rates of growth in the overseas aid ratio, which on this timetable would rise beyond 0.5 per cent. after 2008 and reach 0.7 per. cent by 2013. I can also state that if Britain's plan—the new International Finance Facility—is agreed internationally, the objective of 0.7 per cent. could be achieved earlier, by 2008–09.

Industrial Innovation

16. **Mr. Luke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on Treasury incentives to facilitate innovation in industry. [184090]

Mr. Boateng: The DTI's Innovation Report, published in December 2003, and the joint DTI-DfES-HMT "Science and innovation investment framework 2004–14", published alongside the Spending Review, set out the Government's framework to facilitate innovation in industry.

Iraq

18. **Mr. David Stewart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with European Finance Ministers on debt relief for Iraq. [184092]

Mr. Boateng: The Chancellor has discussed Iraqi debt relief with other Finance Ministers in a variety of forums, including the G7 meeting in New York in May.

Individual Savings Accounts

19. **Mr. Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total present value of cash individual savings accounts; and if he will review his decision to reduce the annual permitted contribution to cash ISAs. [184094]

Ruth Kelly: Since their introduction in April 1999 a total of £81 billion has been subscribed to the cash component of the ISA.

The limits for annual subscriptions to ISAs are set at a maximum of £5,000 with a maximum limit of £1,000 for cash from 2006 onwards. These were the original limits envisaged for subscriptions to the ISA announced in the 1998 Budget. It was also announced that for the first year of the ISA the limits were to be £7,000 and £3,000 respectively. These starting limits were retained for a second year and extended to the end of April 2006 in the November 2000 pre-Budget report. The higher limits were provided to help establish and embed the ISA.

As I said in the debate on this issue at Report Stage of the Finance Bill last Tuesday, April 2006 is nearly two years away and we shall continue to keep the ISA limits under review.

Of course any review is subject to the 10-year guarantee provided by the Chancellor—that savers will benefit from tax relief on up to £5,000 in saving in the ISA each year until 2009.

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of child tax credit are subject to recovery as a result of overpayment in the last financial year in *(a)* Hastings and Rye and *(b)* the UK. [184364]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Mr. Webb) on 9 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 1482W.

Drugs Liaison Officers

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he measures the success rate of drugs liaison officers situated in foreign countries. [183673]

John Healey: Drugs liaison officers are deployed according to an assessment of the drugs threat to the UK and where they can achieve the best results for the UK. Specific objectives are set for each country or region with a view to maximising the impact on drugs supply and traffickers to the UK.

Economic Growth Rates

Mr. David: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on how economic growth rates in the UK compare with those in other EU countries. [184079]

Ruth Kelly: UK GDP growth has been above that of the euro area in every year since 1997. Independent forecasters expect UK GDP to continue growing more quickly than the euro area, both this year and next.

Eurozone

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether general economic growth within the Eurozone has changed as a result of European Union enlargement. [184264]

Ruth Kelly: The new Member States are not members of the Euro zone, hence they are not included in Euro zone growth statistics.

However, enlargement of the EU is expected to bring long- term benefits both for the UK and all EU Member States, through greater trade opportunities and access to the enlarged single market.

Flats Above Shops Scheme

Martin Linton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims the Inland Revenue has received under the capital allowances for flats above shops scheme; [183274]

(2) how many UK residents have benefited from the 100 per cent. capital allowance for renovation or conversion space above shops or other commercial premises to provide flats for rent in each year since 11 May 2001; [183275]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to his Department of successful claims under the capital allowances for flats above shops scheme in each year between May 2001 and May 2004; [183276]

(4) how many claims were made in each year between May 2001 and May 2004 for *(a)* an initial allowance on a qualifying flat and *(b)* writing down allowances on a qualifying flat under the capital allowances for flats above shops scheme; [183277]

(5) what estimate he has made of the funds recovered as a result of converted dwellings ceasing to qualify for the capital allowances for flats above shops scheme, broken down by *(a)* the reasons for non-qualification and *(b)* financial years (i) 2001–02, (ii) 2002–03 and (iii) 2003–04. [183278]

John Healey: The scheme for Flat Conversion Allowances (FCA) was introduced in Finance Act 2001 as part of a package of measures designed to encourage the regeneration of Britain's towns and cities, building on recommendations made by the Urban Task Force, chaired by Lord Rogers, in their report "Towards an Urban Renaissance".

FCA was always envisaged as a modest scheme. As published by the ODPM in "Evaluation Issues for the Urban White Paper Fiscal Measures" in May 2003, the estimated Exchequer costs were: for 2001–02: negligible; for 2002–03: -£5 million; and for 2003–04: -£5 million.

During the combined tax years and accounting period 2001–02 and 2002–03 around 770 claims have been received from companies. No figures are yet available for 2003–04.

To minimise any extra burden on businesses there are no requirements to provide detailed information when a business includes a claim for the allowances on its tax return. The information requested beyond the number of claims is not available.

Fuel Taxation

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has commissioned on the effects on small businesses of fuel taxation increases. [184005]

John Healey: When taking decisions on fuel duty rate levels, the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes account of all relevant economic, environmental and social considerations.

Interest Rates

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of recent changes in interest rates on net disposable income. [184086]

Ruth Kelly: The independent Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England takes a deliberately forward-looking and pre-emptive approach to delivering stability and growth, setting interest rates in order to maintain low and stable inflation. And the excellent job that the MPC has done, supported by our new fiscal framework, has delivered stability and rising prosperity: since 1997, real household disposable income growth has averaged 3.1 per cent. per annum, compared to an average of 2.3 per cent. between 1992 and 1997.

Despite the recent changes, interest rates are still low by historical standards. Low interest rates have ensured that the ratio of interest payments to household disposable income has remained close to 7 per cent. since 2002, compared to a peak of over 15 per cent. in 1990 when consumers were hit at the same time by rises in interest rates, well into double figures, and rapidly rising unemployment.

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. [184089]

John Healey: Since the introduction of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme in 1996 more than £700 million in contributions have been made through the scheme in support of over 13,000 projects. As confirmed in Budget 2003, and following consultation with stakeholders, the scheme has been reformed to improve transparency, accountability and evaluation. A more strategic approach to sustainable waste management has been introduced by transferring funding for such projects to Defra's public spending programme, while the scope of eligible projects has been extended to include those that support biodiversity—these changes aim to improve monitoring, evaluation, and the overall performance of the scheme. In line with the Government's commitment to maintain the real value of the reformed scheme, this was increased to £48.3 million a year on 1 April.

Law and Order (Spending)

Claire Ward: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on Government spending on law and order and the fight against terrorism. [184084]

John Healey: As announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his statement of 12 July, spending on Crime and Justice will increase by £3.5 billion by 2007–08, an annual average real terms growth of 3 per cent. Spending on counter-terrorism and resilience across departments will rise to over £2 billion by 2007–08, more than doubling the total since September 11.

Overseas Development

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of UK GDP is spent on overseas development; and what the EU average is. [184082]

John Healey: In 2003 the UK spent 0.34 per cent. of Gross National Income (GNI) on development assistance to the world's poorest countries, exceeding the target we set for that year. As the chancellor announced in the 2004 spending review statement, total uk aid by 2007–08 will reach nearly £6.5 billion, equivalent to 0.47 per cent. of GNI, well above the 2003 EU average of 0.35 per cent.

Road-related Taxation

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised by *(a)* road fuel and *(b)* road related taxation in the last year for which figures are available. [184004]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

(a) Revenue from duty on road fuels was £22.3 billion in 2003. This information is available in the Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin published by HM Customs and Excise, which can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com. Customs do not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

(b) Revenue from Vehicle Excise Duty was £4.7 billion in 2003–04. This information is available through the Office for National Statistics at www.statistics.gov.uk

State Aid

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has made to the European Commission on the elimination of state aid to companies. [183297]

Ruth Kelly: The Treasury set out its views on the need for further action to reform the EU state aid regime in its February 2004 report on progress in achieving European economic reform, "Advancing long-term prosperity: Economic reform in an enlarged Europe". The Government gave further detail of the need for state aid reform in their June 2004 submission to the mid-term high-level group on the review of the Lisbon strategy, "Mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy: UK submission to the high-level group".

World Debt

Linda Perham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on progress the G7 finance ministers are making in tackling world debt. [184093]

John Healey: Further cancellation of debt for the world's poorest countries was an important item of discussion at last month's G8 summit in Sea Island, Georgia.

The UK pressed for, and secured, G8 support for the extension of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative by a further two years, potentially allowing another 10 countries to benefit from debt relief in excess of $30 billion.

Finance Ministers will report back by the end of the year on progress, and on further measures to ensure that the poorest countries have a sustainable exit from debt.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Accountancy Advice

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many contracts have been let by her Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising her Department on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182260]

Ms Hewitt: There has been no contracts let by the Department to any of the companies mentioned since 2001–02 for advisory work on PPP/PFI contracts.

Aegis Defence Services

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what dates officials have met representatives of Aegis Defence Services. [183379]

Jacqui Smith: My officials have not met representatives of Aegis Defence Services.

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations have been made to the United States authorities relating to Aegis Defence Services and personnel associated with its operations. [183615]

Jacqui Smith: The Department of Trade and Industry has not made any representations to the United States relating to Aegis Defence Services or its personnel associated with its operations.

Automotive Companies

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to her answer of 29 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 194W, on MG Rover Group, which key automotive companies her officials have had discussions and meetings with in the last year, and on what dates; and which of her officials were involved. [182759]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The Department seeks to promote the competitiveness of the automotive sector in the UK through, among other things, providing an effective communication channel between business and Government. Frequent meetings and discussions take place between officials and a wide range of companies in the sector. This includes regular bilateral dialogue with key companies and a variety of broader meetings in the context of sectoral initiatives such as the Automotive Academy, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, and Supply Chain Groups programme, and through the auspices of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and other trade associations. A full list of meetings and discussions with dates and names of officials involved could not be compiled except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications (Storage)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many departmental publications are in storage; and where they are located. [183866]

Ms Hewitt: There are currently 1,900 different departmental publications stored and distributed from the DTI Publications Orderline, based in Otford, Kent. There are also around 25 print on demand publications available.

In addition, there are a number of smaller specialist distributors such as: the Bio-Wise Helpline in Didcot; Cleaner Coal Technology Programme Helpline in Didcot; Tudorseed Construction in Hornchurch; TCS Publications in Teddington.

National Minimum Wage

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if she will ensure that information campaigns on changes to the national minimum wage in October for 14 to 17-year-olds use magazines, television and radio with substantial youth audiences; [182867]

(2) how many 14 to 17-year-olds in Scotland will benefit from changes to the national minimum wage in October; [182869]

(3) if her Department will target school pupils who will be entitled to the national minimum wage for the first time before October with information on their rights; [182870]

(4) how many school pupils aged between 14 and 17 years will benefit from the national minimum wage in October. [182873]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 1 October 2004 the Government will introduce a new minimum wage of £3 an hour, which will apply to workers who are below the age of 18 and have ceased to be of compulsory school leaving age. After taking account of apprentices (who will be exempt) the number of people in the UK who stand to benefit from the new rate is likely to be in the low tens of thousands. It is not possible to provide an estimate of beneficiaries specifically for Scotland because of the small sample sizes underpinning the data.

It is important that young people are made aware of the new rate. My officials are presently preparing an information campaign for this autumn.

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how the Department plans to create greater awareness of the national minimum wage among home workers. [182871]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In March 2004 the Government introduced the National Minimum Wage Regulations 1999 (Amendment) Regulations 2004. These regulations come into effect in October 2004 and require employers to pay all output workers, including home workers, the minimum wage for every hour they work, or a fair piece rate that allows an average worker to earn the minimum wage. We believe the new system will be more easily understood—helping home workers to understand and claim their right to the minimum wage.

The Department has already, working with the Trades Union Congress and the National Group on Homeworking, distributed information about the changes to homeworkers and their representatives. My officials are presently considering what more can be done to promote awareness of the minimum wage to home workers.

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if her Department will assess how best to restrict further failures to pay the national minimum wage. [182872]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In their fourth report last year the Low Pay Commission asked the Government to evaluate existing enforcement powers to help strengthen enforcement of the minimum wage. The Government will be submitting evidence on this issue to the Commission in the autumn.

Employment Tribunals

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many claims have been made against her Department at employment tribunals in each year since 1997; [182757]

(2) how much money her Department spent *(a)* settling and *(b)* contesting claims registered at employment tribunals in each year since 1997. [182758]

Ms Hewitt *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* Information prior to 1999 is not available.

The remaining information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if she will list the means-tested benefits available through her Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182591]

Ms Hewitt *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The Department did not provide any means-tested benefits in May 1997 and does not do so now.

Milton Haven

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had with the Milford Haven Port Authority in connection with the proposed development of the liquefied natural gas handling facilities within the port by Petroplus; what discussions his Department has had on safety matters with the Port Authority; and if he will make a statement. [179863]

Mr. Timms: None. The Department's regulatory role in relation to this project concerns issues of economic regulation. The particular issues are the future regime for regulated third party access, and the associated exemption arrangements (which will be administered by Ofgem); and an exemption from the requirement for a Gas Transporter licence (on which the Department is preparing to consult).

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182951]

Ms Hewitt: The information is as follows:

25 non-departmental public bodies—10 executive, 14 advisory and one tribunal—have been established since 1997.

24 non-departmental public bodies—four executive and 20 advisory—have been abolished since 1997.

Nuclear Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what Government money is being spent on nuclear research in 2004–05. [183080]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* The Government funds projects on civil nuclear research through two of the Research Councils (Engineering and Physical Science Research Council and Natural Environment Research Council). Many of these projects are spread over a number of years, with no precise allocation of funds to each year. It is also possible that money will be allocated to further projects during the course of this year. Therefore it is not possible to give an exact figure for Government spend on nuclear research in 2004–05.

Research includes fission (approx £5.5 million over four years)[1], fusion (£48 million over four years)[2], nuclear physics (current level of support covering the period from 1999 to 2008 is £27.15 million)[3], and related areas[4].

DEFRA provides around £500,000 per annum for research on radioactive waste management issues.

[1] Fission

A small number of projects are currently funded by EPSRC in nuclear fission power, with a value of £565,000, through the responsive mode mechanism. The subjects include plant material research, improved waste management techniques and improved energy extraction methods.

EPSRC are commissioning a 'Keeping the Nuclear Option Open' programme, worth £5 million over the next four years (of R&D related to the current, ongoing and potential future operation of fission power in the UK). The EPSRC also supports grants in a number of related, underpinning fields such as materials for reactor design and radionuclide chemistry.

[2] Fusion

The UK's domestic fusion programme is undertaken by the UKAEA (UK Atomic Energy Authority), situated at Culham. University and student involvement in this area was recently boosted by the award of EPSRC industrial collaborative (CASE) studentships to Culham. Funding for fusion in 2003–04 was £15.6 million, of which £9 million for the domestic programme,

including staff salaries and £6.6 million for the UK's host contribution for operating JET (Joint European Torus). The support of £15.6 million was provided on a yearly basis, but starting from April 2004 this support has been consolidated with a four-year grant of £48 million. This is based on a provision of £15.6 million for years 1 and 2, £9 million for year 3 and £6 million for year 4 and includes an allowance for inflation.

Additionally, EPSRC supports a portfolio of research in plasma physics, related to magnetic and inertial confinement fusion (current level of support allocated to research grants through responsive mode in this area totals approximately £4.5 million since April 2000).

[3] Nuclear Physics

EPSRC's nuclear physics research portfolio is supported entirely through the responsive mode and, as of February 2004, the current level of support is £27.15 million.

[4] Related Areas

Research is also funded through PhD studentships via the doctoral training account (DTA); however, full figures for how many are relevant to nuclear research are not yet available.

Prescription-only Medicines (Vets)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what consultations her Department has *(a)* had and *(b)* planned on regulatory changes to the prescription-only medicines regime for veterinary practices; [183248]

(2) when she expects to publish a statutory instrument for the future regulation of prescription-only medicines for animals. [183251]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answers 12 July 2004]:* The Department has already consulted with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the British Veterinary Association and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association on the remedies proposed by the Competition Commission in their report on the supply of prescription only veterinary medicines.

There will be a public consultation on the draft statutory instrument to implement the changes. This will be published shortly.

Renewables Obligation Order

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the objectives are of grants connected to the Renewables Obligation Order 2002. [183555]

Mr. Timms: There are no grants connected to the Renewables Obligation Order 2002. Under the Renewables Obligation, licensed suppliers have to supply a specified and growing proportion of their electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.

The Government are providing capital grant support to a range of renewable energy projects particularly in the areas of offshore wind, biomass, photovoltaics and solar water heating. The purpose of these is to provide additional support for demonstration projects for renewables technologies that are not yet economic with support from the renewables obligation alone.

Scientific Advisory Committees

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if the Government will publish guidance for scientific advisory committees on how their published reports may express scientific disagreements. [184010]

Ms Hewitt: The Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees provides detailed guidance on the operations of such committees and their relationship with Government. Sections 61 through to 67 set out the procedures for arriving at conclusions, dealing with dissenting views, and the publication of documents.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if the Government will take steps to protect individual members of scientific advisory committees from litigation based on allegations of negligent mis-statement which may follow publication of their scientific views as part of the committees' work. [184011]

Ms Hewitt: The Code of Practice sets out the way in which scientific advisory committees should reach and present their views. Section 34–35 addresses potential liabilities of, and indemnity for committee members.

Sex Discrimination

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consultation her Department has had with the EU Commission to tackle sex discrimination in the workplace. [183711]

Ms Hewitt: The amended Equal Treatment Directive (2002/73) was the outcome of our successful negotiations with the EU Commission. This Directive, published on 5 October 2002 for implementation by 5 October 2005, updates European legislation on gender equality in employment and vocational training, taking account of changes generated by modifications to the Treaty and by case law.

Small Businesses

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice she has given to businesses regarding contingency plans in the event of a fuel shortage with particular reference to small businesses. [184047]

Mr. Timms: The Government make available a range of general information and advice to help businesses undertake contingency planning for a wide range of scenarios, not just fuel shortages. This advice, much of which has regard to the particular needs of small businesses, can be accessed via: www.ukresilience.info.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Drug Treatment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have to ensure wider public understanding of the potential benefits of drug treatment. [182232]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The updated drugs strategy, published in 2002 and widely disseminated, states that:

"Treatment works. Getting drug misusers into treatment and support is the best way of improving their health and increasing their ability to lead fulfilling lives. Treatment breaks the cycle of drug misuse and crime, and investing in treatment reduces the overall cost of drug misuse to society."

The national treatment outcome research study, the most comprehensive study of drug treatment in the United Kingdom, showed that £1 spent on drug treatment saves £3 in the criminal justice system.

Therefore, the Government made a public commitment to drug treatment by setting the public service agreement (PSA) to increase the participation of problem drug users in drug treatment programmes by 55 per cent. by 2004 and by 100 per cent. by 2008 and increase year-on-year the proportion of users successfully sustaining or completing treatment programmes. The Government are currently on-track to meet this target. In 2002–03, there were 140,900 drug misusers in treatment.

To make the public more aware of drug misuse, the Government launched a £3 million-a-year communications campaign, FRANK. This new campaign both informs young people and their parents, carers and families about the effects and risks of taking illicit drugs and gives advice, support and details of drug treatment services.

IND Constituency Case

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when officials at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will resolve the immigration status of a constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall, reference number: S1031982. [183794]

Mr. Browne: The immigration status of the constituent to whom you referred in your question was resolved on 13 July. I wrote to my hon. Friend on 14 July setting out the details of her constituent's immigration status.

Offender Management

Mrs. Ann Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will be responsible for population management issues once prisoner places have been purchased by regional offender managers. [168785]

Paul Goggins: The Directors of the National Offender Management Service are currently reviewing options with regard to the split and location of a number of functions, including population management.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to Question number 146042 tabled by the hon. Member for Havant on 18 December 2003 regarding widows. [182068]

Paul Goggins: I replied to the hon. Member on 12 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 988W.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the uptake of e-delivery of Government services is in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* the UK; [180337]

David Davis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the uptake of e-delivery of Government services has been in East Yorkshire. [181587]

Mr. Alexander: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) measures uptake of Government services online on a quarterly basis for adults (16-plus) across Great Britain. The last survey, in February 2004 showed that 28 per cent., of the adult population accessed Government web sites in the 12 months prior to the survey. 24 per cent., of the population accessed sites for informational purposes and six per cent., for transactional purposes. Recently available National Statistics data shows 52 per cent., of internet users in Yorkshire and the Humber have visited Government websites compared to the UK average of 48 per cent.

Ministerial Air Travel

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the total cost of air travel between Northern Ireland and Great Britain was for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff in the Cabinet Office in the latest year for which figures are available. [182111]

Mr. Alexander: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library. These reports contain information reaching back to 1995–96. Information for 2003–04 is currently being assembled and will be published shortly. In respect of travel by staff to Northern Ireland, the Cabinet Office does not record centrally the destination of trips taken by staff. All ministerial and civil service travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers, and Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Library.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182952]

Mr. Alexander: Since January 1997, four non-departmental public bodies for which the Cabinet Office is responsible have been established and four have been abolished.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 53W, on parliamentary questions, which non-departmental public bodies were reviewed by his Department between 1997 and 2002; and what the outcome was of each review. [182939]

Mr. Alexander: The following non-departmental public bodies for which the Cabinet Office was responsible were reviewed between 1997 and 2002:

Civil Service Appeal Board

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Senior Salaries Review Body

Women's National Commission (transferred to DTI—May 2002)

In each case the review concluded that the body should retain its status as an advisory NDPB funded by Government.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal By-products

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will seek to amend the Animal By-products Regulation to exclude eggs, honey and dairy products. [177397]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European Commission has been considering whether products such as bread, biscuits, cakes, pasta, chocolate and sweets should be subject to control. The Commission has proposed that such products should fall outside the control of the Regulation. We support the Commission's proposal, providing the products incorporate only rennet, melted fat, milk or eggs, and have suggested that honey should be added to the list.

The Commission is also considering the requirements that should apply to milk/milk-based by-products destined for animal feed.

Bovine Carcases (Disposal)

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the average charge made for collection and disposal of adult bovine carcass by *(a)* knacker's yards, *(b)* hunt kennels, *(c)* maggot farms and *(d)* zoos and circuses was in the last year for which figures are available; [183066]

(2) what her latest estimate is of the average charge made for collection and disposal of *(a)* a lamb carcass, *(b)* a calf carcass, *(c)* a sheep carcass and *(d)* a horse carcass by (i) knacker's yards, (ii) hunt kennels, (iii) maggot farms and (iv) zoos and circuses. [183110]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available. The charge for collection and disposal is a matter for agreement between the farmer and the business concerned.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many tonnes of carbon dioxide were offset by the use of good quality combined heat and power in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002 and *(d)* 2003; [181955]

(2) what contribution she estimates the achievement of the Government's 10GWe combined heat and power target in 2010 will make, in millions of tonnes of carbon, to the UK's Climate Change programme. [181956]

Mr. Morley: Good Quality CHP produced estimated carbon savings of 4.48 MtC in 2000, 4.43 in 2001 and, using a range of savings from 2002 onwards, 3.3–4.6 MtC in 2002. Figures for 2003 will be published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2004, due for publication later this month.

Carbon savings from CHP installed to meet the CHP target depend upon the generating plant displaced. New CHP plant installed is expected in the short-term to replace a mix of fossil fuelled power generation saving around 0.7 MtC per 1GWe of newly installed Good Quality CHP per year. Towards 2010 and beyond, new CHP plant is more likely to replace more energy efficient new gas generating technologies contributing carbon savings estimated at around 0.1 MtC per 1GWe towards the Climate Change Programme.

Cross-compliance

Mr. Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to respond to responses received on proposed measures for the implementation of cross-compliance in England. [182439]

Alun Michael: An announcement will be made on the issues addressed in this consultation later in the summer.

Dangerous Dogs Act

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dogs have been registered under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [183005]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table sets out the details of the number of dogs on the index of exempted dogs, as requested.

	New dogs notified	*Dogs notified (total)*	*Certificates live dogs (total)*
1995	0	8,573	4,252
1996	0	8,573	4,040
1997	9	8,582	3,819
1998	36	8,618	3,593
1999	26	8,644	3,284
2000	14	8,658	2,998
2001	5	8,663	2,813
2002	5	8,668	2,674
2003	0	8,668	2,531
2004	2	8,670	2,490

Drinking Water

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the quality of drinking water in *(a)* Leyton and Wanstead constituency, *(b)* the London borough of Redbridge and *(c)* the London borough of Waltham Forest; what trends have been observed in (i) cleanliness and (ii) quality of the water; and if she will make a statement. [183134]

Mr. Morley: Thames Water and Essex and Suffolk Water carry out monitoring of the quality of the drinking water they supply in the London boroughs of Redbridge and Waltham Forest (including Leyton and Wanstead constituency).

The Drinking Water Inspectorate has assessed both companies' results. For 2001, in the water supply areas that include these boroughs, 99.89 per cent. of a total of 17,951 tests met the standards of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations. In 2003, drinking water standards were met in 99.91 per cent. of a total of 18,441 tests undertaken in the same water supply areas.

With regard to cleanliness, the national standard for iron is a useful measure of the general cleanliness of a water company's distribution system as it indicates the presence of rust deposits that are related to the age of the pipe network. In 2003, only two samples failed to comply with the national standard for iron within these water supply areas.

Fallen Livestock

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates have been made as to the cost to the UK livestock farming industry of complying with regulations that prevent on-farm burial of fallen livestock. [183067]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has estimated that the cost of collection and disposal of all fallen stock in the UK is over £50 million per year. However, about £30 million of that cost is accounted for by arrangements for testing of cattle for BSE and the costs are borne by Government. The rest is borne by industry, although it should be recognised that many livestock producers were already disposing of their fallen stock by means other than burial before the regulations came into force so that the regulations did not impose an additional cost. The national fallen stock scheme due to start in the autumn will also benefit from £20 million of Government funding over three years to assist with the costs to the industry of complying with the regulations.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of lamb carcases that require disposal annually that are collected by *(a)* knacker's yards, *(b)* hunt kennels, *(c)* maggot farms and *(d)* zoos and circuses. [183109]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to her answer of 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 950W, on fallen stock, (1) what evidence her Department has received that calves are the most suitable livestock for feeding to hounds; [183121]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to estimate the number of *(a)* sheep, *(b)* calves, *(c)* cattle and *(d)* horses which are collected by hunt kennels; [183122]

(3) what steps her Department took when concluding that the majority of carcases collected by hunt kennels are calves. [183123]

Mr. Bradshaw: In discussions the Department has had with organisations representing hunt kennels, they have made it clear that calves are the preferred fallen livestock which are collected and disposed of by hunt kennels. However, we have no information on overall numbers collected of calves or other types of livestock.

GM Crops

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the consultants carrying out the farm-scale evaluations on genetically modified winter oil seed rape will complete their report and send it to the Royal Society for peer review; and when she expects the Royal Society will *(a)* complete the peer review process and *(b)* publish the results. [182250]

Mr. Morley: Members of the research consortium who carried out the farm-scale evaluations have completed the analysis of the results for winter oil seed rape. The scientific steering committee overseeing the evaluations has approved the drafts of scientific papers presenting the outcome. These papers have now been submitted for consideration for publication in the Proceedings of the Royal Society. The timing of the peer review process and the decision whether or not to publish the papers is at the discretion of the Royal Society. If the papers are accepted we do not expect them to be published this year.

Hazardous Waste

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact on journey times of hazardous waste of the new provision of the Hazardous Waste Directive taking effect. [183034]

Mr. Morley: The Government recognise that with the reduction in the number of landfill sites taking hazardous waste from 15 July 2004, hazardous waste could travel further in the short term. Nevertheless, it is recognised that even under the present system, significant amounts of special waste travel across the country. In 2002, 42 per cent. of hazardous waste crossed a regional boundary. Government have not commissioned any specific studies to evaluate the forthcoming changes on this specific issue. Clearly in the longer term, the implementation of the Landfill Directive requirements will see an increase in treatment costs, which in turn will provide a greater incentive for hazardous waste minimisation, the use of more sustainable treatment technologies, and an overall reduction in our reliance on landfill.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many landfill sites can dispose of hazardous wastes under the provisions of the Hazardous Waste Directive entering into force on 16 July. [183040]

Mr. Morley: I assume the hon. Lady is referring to the provisions of the 1999 Landfill Directive that come into force on 16 July 2004. As from that date, there is expected to be 20+ landfill sites able to accept hazardous waste of varying types. In addition, some 37 non-hazardous landfill sites are going through the process of setting up separate cells able to accept stable, non-reactive hazardous waste.

Further details on all these sites is available on the Environment Agency website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what types of hazardous liquid waste are accepted by non-merchant landfill site operators; how much of each type was accepted by operators in each of the last 12 months; and what legislative framework *(a)* governs and *(b)* will govern in the autumn acceptance of such waste. [183184]

Mr. Morley: Under the Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002, hazardous liquid waste has been banned from landfill since 16 July 2002.

Litter

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the increase in litter collected from streets in 2003; and what plans she has to decrease this figure in 2004. [182438]

Alun Michael: The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England for 2002–03 compiled on behalf of Defra by ENCAMS (Keep Britain Tidy) shows that overall levels of littering across all land use classes have remained unchanged compared with figures from the previous year. However, within that position, the survey records a 12 per cent. increase in fast food packaging litter. However, significant improvements to the quality of the local environment can be made where action is taken. For example, at a local level in Stoke on Trent, fast food littering was reduced by 20 per cent. through their initiative "Eat Neat". One way we hope to tackle fast food litter is through the development of a voluntary code of practice for the fast food industry, which we hope to launch in the autumn.

We are working to reduce overall levels of littering in a number of ways including revising the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, and through initiatives dealing with chewing gum deposition and drugs related litter. We have also allowed local authorities to keep receipts for fixed penalty notices issued in respect of littering and dog fouling. We hope this will lead to greater use of such penalties by local authorities. Data collected through the introduction of the new cleanliness BVPI—BV199 in April 2003 will enable local authorities to assess the level of littering in their area and target cleansing and enforcement more effectively. We also continue to work with ENCAMS in campaigning to stop people dropping litter.

Livestock Grazing

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is her policy to prohibit livestock from grazing in fruit orchards; and if she will make a statement. [183829]

Miss Melanie Johnson: I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has no intention of banning the grazing of sheep or other livestock in orchards.

The FSA is working with a group of stakeholders to produce guidance on the application of manures to agricultural land used for growing ready to eat fruit and vegetables. If not carried out in a controlled manner, this practice can lead to contamination with micro-organisms that cause human infection. The draft guidance is currently being revised following public consultation and advice from its expert advisory committee on the microbiological safety of food. It has not yet been finalised. The FSA intends to publish its guidance later in the year once the final version has been agreed with stakeholders.

Material Flows

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action her Department has taken to improve the quality of data on material flows within the UK; and if she will make a statement on the outcomes of discussions her Department has held with other EU member states on securing international best practice and consistency in that area. [183192]

Mr. Morley: The Department is working closely with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to improve the quality of the Material Flow Accounts managed by the ONS, and with the Environment Agency and other bodies to improve the quality of other material flow data such as those on waste and water use.

Officials from the ONS recently attended a workshop on Material Flow Accounting organised by the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat) and in a follow-up meeting an official from my Department attended a workshop on material flows and related indicators organised by the Office for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). At both meetings the UK and other EU member states supported proposals to develop a common accounting framework for monitoring flows of materials. This work will build on the general framework set out in the United Nations handbook on integrated environmental and economic accounting 2003 and on the more detailed guidance set out in the methodological guide on economy-wide material flow accounts published by Eurostat in 2000. Material flow accounting is one of a number of measures that may be used to monitor progress in sustainable consumption and production.

Means-tested Benefits

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list the means-tested benefits available through her Department and the agencies for which it is responsible *(a)* in May 1997 and *(b)* now. [182569]

Alun Michael: Neither Defra nor did predecessor Departments nor departmental agencies have means-tested benefits now or in May 1997.

Mercury Scrubbing Equipment

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost per crematorium of fitting mercury scrubbing equipment to its chimneys. [181671]

Alun Michael: The consultation paper issued by the Department in May 2003 estimated that the total capital cost of installing gas cleaning in all crematoria in the UK was £187 million. The estimated average cost per cremation is set out in the following table:

Number of cremations in 1999	Number of crematoria, (excluding three new in 1999)	Average cost per cremation (£)	Percentage of UK cremations in 1999
Over 978	204	47 to 67	95
978 to 700	19	47 to 63	3.4
700 to 500	10	47 to 63	1.3
Under 500	3	Over 63	0.3

Official Engagements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list her official engagements for the two-month period commencing 15 March. [162882]

Margaret Beckett: Over the two months from 15 March 2004 until 15 May 2004, much of my time was taken up with essential meetings with ministerial colleagues, officials and stakeholders on the various aspects of this Department's wide-ranging portfolio. I was also heavily engaged in the EU and wider international negotiations and representations that constitute a key element of this Department's work.

Renewable Energy

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to extend enhanced capital allowance status to renewable energy technologies, with particular reference to *(a)* solar PV and *(b)* micro wind. [182652]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme is focused on energy saving and energy efficiency measures. Renewable energy technologies are supported via other schemes such as the Renewables Obligation, exemption from the Climate Change Levy and in the case of Solar PV itself the Major Photovoltaics demonstration programme.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Ministers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Prime Minister how many of the Cabinet asked him to remain as Prime Minister last month. [184122]

The Prime Minister: I had a number of meetings with Cabinet colleagues last month, all of which concentrated on the Government's five-year plan of investment and reform in the public services.

As with previous Administrations it is not my practice to provide details of all such meetings under exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Mauritius

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister what recent meetings he has held with the Prime Minister of Mauritius; and what subjects were discussed. [184366]

The Prime Minister: I last met the Prime Minister of Mauritius at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Nigeria last year. As with previous Administrations, it is not the practice of this Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign governments.

Nuclear Power (Lobbying)

Llew Smith: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his reference to the US nuclear lobbying efforts in his evidence to the Liaison Committee on 6 July, which United States companies and individuals have lobbied *(a)* him, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* Government officials in favour of the construction of new nuclear plants. [184393]

The Prime Minister: I, members of the Government and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals. As with previous Administrations it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings, under exemptions 2 and 7 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

HEALTH

Meat (Time Between Slaughter and Sale)

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the maximum time period his Department recommends should elapse between the slaughter and sale of meat; and what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that meat is not sold outside the recommended timeframe; [183948]

(2) how many consignments of slaughtered meat for sale within wholesalers in Britain were identified where the date of slaughter was more than one year previously in each year since 1997. [183950]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* There is no provision in current European Union or national meat hygiene legislation that prescribes a maximum time limit between slaughter and sale or consumption of meat.

The Food Standards Agency advise that meat that is frozen and held under appropriate temperatures in cold stores can safely be consumed up to several years after freezing.

This is because there is unlikely to be any increase in risk due to microbiological activity, as long as temperature controls, which are set out in EU legislation, have been properly maintained. Under The Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995 (which implements EU legislation in Great Britain), it is an offence to sell for human consumption meat that has been held or transported above the permitted temperature.

In addition, all food businesses have a responsibility under the Food Safety Act 1990 to ensure that food placed on the market is fit for human consumption. It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that all meat sold for human consumption complies with this Act.

Information on the number of consignments of slaughtered meat for sale within wholesalers in Great Britain where the date of slaughter was more than one year previously is not held centrally.

Abortions

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies have survived abortions since 1991; and if he will make a statement. [181650]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, any registered medical practitioner who terminates a pregnancy is required to notify the Chief Medical Officer. The abortion notification form does not collect information on whether the foetus survived the abortion.

Ambulance Trusts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the amalgamation of ambulance trusts. [184229]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Any decisions the configuration of ambulance trusts are a matter for the local health economy to consider, led by the strategic health authority and in consultation with patients and the public.

Childhood Obesity

Mr. Stinchcombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of trends in incidence of childhood obesity; and what the evidential basis is of the predicted trends. [183525]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The prevalence of obesity among children aged two to 10 increased between 1995 and 2002 in England and is shown in the table.

Prevalence of obesity among children aged two to 10, by sex, England 1995 to 2002

Percentage

	Males	*Females*	*Persons*
1995	9.3	10.0	9.6
1996	10.6	10.5	10.6
1997	11.3	10.4	10.8
1998	11.8	11.4	11.6
1999–2000	14.2	12.5	13.3
2001	13.5	12.2	12.8
2002	15.2	15.7	15.5

Source:
NatCen/UCL. Health Survey for England 2002.

The Department has not carried out or commissioned any formal research on predicting future trends in obesity. However, there is concern that childhood obesity has increased since 1995 and that these trends may continue.

Mr. Stinchcombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the Government's primary targets are for action against childhood obesity; [183526]

(2) what the Government's assessment is of the primary causes of increasing obesity in children. [183527]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The primary cause of increasing obesity in children is to do with energy balance: children are eating too much for the amount of physical activity they do. A new primary public service agreement target, held jointly between the Department of Health, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, was announced on 12 July 2004. The target aims to halt the year-on-year increase in the prevalence of obesity in children under 11 by 2010, in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole.

Choosing Health Consultation

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of each task group for the Choosing Health consultation; and what the criteria are for membership of each group. [182726]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The membership of each task group brought together a mix of invited stakeholders, covering public/consumer interests, examples of leading edge practice, people representative of the various settings and organisations under consideration in the consultation, and others with relevant expertise. Each task group was also supported by officials from the Department and other relevant Government Departments, and by regional directors of public health. In line with data protection provisions, a copy of the list of all the members who have agreed to their details being disclosed has been placed in the Library.

Commission for Patient Public Involvement

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on consultation on changes to the role of the Commission for Patient Public Involvement in Health; and if he will make a statement. [183935]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* A report on the review of the Department's arm's length bodies will be published in the near future and following this, detailed discussions with interested parties will take place on implementation.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with primary care trusts about the use of community hospitals. [183748]

Mr. Hutton: The Department has not provided any specific direction to primary care trusts (PCTs) about the use of community hospitals.

It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission, develop services in response to local needs, and to ensure that appropriate facilities are provided for the local population. PCTs are free to commission care from wherever they can obtain the best services for patients.

Data Collection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the *(a)* total number and *(b)* frequency of data collections requested by his Department from (i) strategic health authorities, (ii) primary care trusts and (iii) NHS trusts in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [180281]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The available information is shown in the table. Systems are now in place to prevent the number of collections increasing.

Total number[1] and frequency of data collections requested by the Department of Health from strategic health authorities[2], primary care trusts[3] and NHS trusts in each year since 1997–98.

Financial year/Organisations	*Monthly*	*Quarterly*	*Biannual*	*Annual*	*Other frequencies[4]*	*Frequency not known*	*Total collections[5]*
1997–98[6]							
Health authorities	1	2	1	6	—	3	13
NHS trusts	—	6	3	16	8	79	112
Other NHS bodies[7]		1	1	3	—	16	21
Total	1	9	5	25	8	98	146
1998–996							
Health authorities	1	3	1	9	—	5	19
NHS trusts	1	10	3	25	8	68	115
Other NHS bodies	—	2	2	4	—	14	22
Total	2	15	6	38	8	87	156
1999–2000[6]							
Health authorities	1	3	1	9	—	9	23
NHS trusts	1	11	3	27	8	56	106
Other NHS bodies	—	3	3	8	1	18	33
Total	2	17	7	44	9	83	162
2000–01[6]							
Health authorities	1	5	1	9	—	5	21
NHS trusts	1	12	3	41	9	49	115
Other NHS bodies	—	3	3	9	1	15	31
Total	2	20	7	59	10	69	167
2001–02[6]							
Health authorities	1	5	2	11	1	7	27
NHS trusts	1	12	4	48	12	25	102
Other NHS bodies	—	3	4	11	2	7	27
Total	2	20	10	70	15	39	156
2002–03							
Strategic health authorities	1	2	4	14	1	—	22
Primary care trusts[3]	4	11	—	51	3	—	69
NHS trusts	—	3	—	5	6	—	14
Other NHS bodies	—	4	4	12	6	—	26
Total	5	20	8	82	16	0	131
2003–04							
Strategic health authorities	1	2	1	9	—	—	13
Primary care trusts	2	12	3	45	4	—	66
NHS Trusts	—	3	2	6	6	—	17
Other NHS bodies	2	10	—	15	4	—	31
Total	5	27	6	75	14	0	127

[1] Figures based on collections approved by the Review of Central Returns Committee (ROCR).
[2] Health authorities until March 2002, strategic health authorities from 2002–03 onwards.
[3] Primary care trusts did not come into existence in significant numbers until 2002–03.
[4] All other collection frequencies, e.g. weekly, biennially.
[5] The total number of collections as at 31 March each year.
[6] From 1997–98 to 2001–02 data on collection frequencies is incomplete.
[7] Includes collections from other NHS bodies (e.g. special health authorities, mental health and cancer units).

Note:
This table includes all ongoing returns from NHS organisations to the Department. One-off and ad hoc returns in year are not shown.

Dentistry

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* Leeds North West and *(c)* Otley in each of the last five years. [183321]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information on the number of general and personal dental service dentists in Leeds, Leeds North West and Otley areas is shown in the table for September each year.

General (GDS) and personal dental service (PDS): number of dentists in September each year

	Leeds unitary authority area	*Leeds north west primary care trust area*	*Otley and wharfedale local electoral ward area*
1999	294	93	17
2000	299	98	21
2001	313	102	22
2002	295	87	19
2003	298	90	19

Notes:
1. PDS figure covers dentists not already working in the GDS.

2. Dentists in the GDS include principals, assistants and vocational dental practitioners. These figures are on a headcount basis rather than whole time equivalent basis and therefore take no account of part-time working. In the GDS, the amount of time spent working in the national health service varies greatly with a large proportion of dentists doing some private work.
3. Dentists working solely in private dentistry are not covered by these figures.

Source:
Dental Practice Board.

Drinking Water

Ms Shipley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 582W, on drinking water, if he will make a statement on the sanctions he is able to operate against schools which fail to give children access throughout the day to drinking water. [183603]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

None. It is for head teachers and school governors to decide how and when drinking water should be made available to pupils. They make this decision as part of their responsibility for the day-to-day running of the school. We believe that decisions of this nature are best made at local level, so that the individual circumstances of the pupils and school can be taken into consideration.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to expand residential treatment centres for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction; [183306]

(2) what plans he has to expand halfway houses for those under-going treatment for alcohol and drug addiction. [183307]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The National Treatment Agency has a national work programme to bring down waiting times and improve access to residential rehabilitation for drug misusers. It has also set up a national steering group to advise the progress of the work programme. The programme includes:

specific work to improve the efficiency of the system to access residential treatment, which includes a national online database (BEDVACS) of current vacancies in residential rehabilitation units, to enable more efficient client placements;

the implementation of new models for regional commissioning of residential drug treatment by the end of 2004; and

a systematic assessment of the need for residential drugs treatment in each part of England.

The responsibility for aftercare planning rests with local drug action teams, which are encouraged to consider all forms of aftercare, including support in the community, to meet the needs of their resident populations.

The Government's alcohol harm reduction strategy was published on 15 March 2004. The strategy proposed a treatment audit of the demand for, and provision of, alcohol treatment services, to inform a programme of improvements to alcohol treatment services. The treatment audit is on course for completion by the first quarter of 2005.

Drug Misuse and Treatment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement about the quality of the information held by his Department about drug misuse and treatment during financial years *(a)* 2003–04 and *(b)* 2004–05 to date. [183073]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The Department does not hold data on drug misuse. This is collected by the Home Office through the British Crime Survey.

Data on drug treatment is provided by the National Treatment Agency and is of a good quality and is prepared in accordance with national statistical standards. Provisional data for 2003–04 will be published on July 21 2004, to coincide with the announcement of the Healthcare Commission's star ratings—which will include drug treatment for the first time this year. Final data for 2003–04 is expected to be published in September. Data for 2004–05 will be published to a similar timescale next year.

Drug Treatment (SERCO system)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the performance of the SERCO system used to record and manage information about drug treatment services. [183074]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 12 July 2004]:* The requirements for drug treatment data collection from the SERCO system have advanced in response to developments in the Government's drug strategy. The Department and SERCO are in discussion about how the software supplied by SERCO can be further developed.

Environmental Sustainability

Mrs. Calton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of electricity used in buildings in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies came from renewable sources in each year since 1997. [181725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proportion of energy that was purchased from renewable sources for the Department's main London estate is shown in the table.

	Percentage
1997–98	0
1998–99	0
1999–2000	0
2000–01	0
2001–02	43
2002–03	76
2003–04	61

The proportion of energy purchased from renewable sources for the national health service Purchasing and Supplies Agency (NHS PASA) is shown in the table.

Year[1]	*Percentage*
2000–01	0
2001–02	43.4

Year[1]	Percentage
2002-03	100
2003-04	100

[1] NHS PASA came into existence as a departmental agency in April 2000.

The NHS Pensions Agency does not currently purchase renewable energy on grounds of cost, but is commissioning a survey to identify the potential to reduce environmental impacts.

Fish (Toxins)

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further action he plans to warn the public of the level of toxins in certain species of fish. [183349]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 14 July 2004]:* The Food Standards Agency will continue to publish the results of surveys on contaminant levels in food and to review the advice it gives to consumers. It is currently conducting a survey of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in about 50 species of fish. Results should be published in early 2005.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce new requirements on labelling of fish which contains high levels of toxins. [183350]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 14 July 2004]:* Current European Union legislation on labelling has no requirements to declare the presence of toxins in food and there are no plans for these to be introduced.

Flexible Careers Scheme

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of the Flexible Careers Scheme was in each year since it was launched. [184212]

Mr. Hutton: The Flexible Careers Scheme is managed by NHS Professionals Special Health Authority.

The scheme for hospital doctors was launched in November 2001 and extended to general practitioners in November 2002. The total cost of the scheme was £30,000 in 2001-02, £639,146 in 2002-03, and £9,124,033 in 2003-04.

Food Supplements Directive

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the Government's response to the invitation by the European Court of Justice to comment on the case against the Food Supplements Directive and the Food Supplements (England) Regulations 2003 brought by the Health Food Manufacturers Association and the National Association of Health Stores; whether that response will explain the consequences to the specialist health food manufacturing and retailing sector, and its consumers, of the implementation of the Directive; what his objectives are in formulating the response; and if he will make a statement. [183801]

Miss Melanie Johnson: It is the United Kingdom's practice not to disclose pleadings before the European Court of Justice (ECJ). Therefore, the Government does not intend to place in the Library, its observations in respect of this case.

In responding to the ECJ, the UK Government's aims are to maintain that Directive 2002/46/EC on food supplements is valid as a matter of European Commission law.

HIV (Lancashire)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of HIV infection there are in each Lancashire constituency. [180434]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information requested is not collected on a constituency basis but by primary care trust. The table as follows shows the latest available information.

Survey of prevalent diagnosed HIV infections (SOPHID): the number of individuals with diagnosed HIV infection resident in Cumbria and Lancashire

Strategic Health Authority 1997 to 2002

Survey year	Cumbria and Lancashire
1997	233
1998	242
1999	295
2000	331
2001	393
2002	479

Survey of prevalent diagnosed HIV infections (SOPHID): the number of individuals with diagnosed HIV infection resident in Lancashire 2001 and 2002 by primary care trust of residence by primary care trust of residence

PCT of residence	Survey year 2001	2002
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	17	30
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale PCT	28	35
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	14	19
Morecambe Bay PCT	[1]20	27
Blackpool PCT	134	156
Fylde PCT	21	20
Preston PCT	51	65
Wyre PCT	23	32
Chorley and South Ribble PCT	20	26
West Lancashire PCT	14	20
Lancashire but PCT of residence not known	5	1
Total	359	431

[1]2001 figure for Morecambe Bay excludes 12 individuals who could potentially reside in either Lancashire or Cumbria.

Notes:

Year relates to year an individual attended for HIV related care or treatment in England, Wales or Northern Ireland Data includes individuals of all ages 2002 is the most recent completed survey PCT of residence has only been applied to the 2001 and 2002 surveys

SOPHID is an annual cross sectional survey established in 1995 to measure the prevalence of diagnosed HIV infection in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (E, W and NI). It collects data on all individuals who attend health services for HIV care within a calendar year.

Internet Drug Sales

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with other Government departments with a view to preventing the advertising and selling of drugs via the internet that are only available in the UK with a general practitioner's prescription. [183493]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) replaced the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) on 1 April 2003.

The MHRA has run two special projects, which have sought to identify those websites offering to supply prescription only medicines (ROMs) to United Kingdom citizens.

In addition, the MCA (as was) has been involved with three initiatives involving the availability of medicines on the internet sponsored by other Government agencies and local authorities, such as the Office of Fair Trading, the Inland Revenue and trading standards departments. These initiatives identified websites which appeared to be in breach of medicines legislation. The MCA investigated the services offered by those websites and took appropriate action.

The MHRA is currently engaged in discussions with Her Majesty's Customs and Excise and the Office of Fair Trading to develop memoranda of understanding with a view to tackling the issues of advertising and supply of ROMs via the internet. In addition, the MHRA has met with the Home Office drugs branch, with whom discussions have taken place about ROMs which also fall within the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Low-Carbohydrate Sector

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Chief Medical Officer has made of the low carbohydrate sector of the food and drink industry; whether advice will be given to the public on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [183291]

Miss Melanie Johnson: There is consensus among the scientific dietetic community that a diet rich in carbohydrates is beneficial to health. Current Government healthy eating advice recommends that a third of the food we eat should be starchy foods, such as bread, breakfast cereals, potatoes, pasta and rice. These foods are important sources of fibre and certain vitamins and minerals. Government advises against dietary regimes that exclude or limit whole food groups.

NHS Beds (Manchester)

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS beds have been available in Manchester Central in each year since 1997. [182667]

Miss Melanie Johnson *[holding answer 14 July 2004]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

Average daily number of available and occupied beds by sector, Central Manchester, 1997-03

	Name	Total available	Year total
2002-03	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	1,172	1,172
2001-02	Central Manchester & Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	1,050	1,050
2000-01	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS Trust	881	1,171
2000-01	Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust	290	
1999-2000	Central Manchester Healthcare NHS	843	1,158
1999-2000	Trust Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust	315	
1998-99	Central Manchester Healthcare	848	1,162
1998-99	Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust	314	
1997-98	Central Manchester Healthcare	913	1,234
1997-98	Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust	321	
1996-97	Central Manchester Healthcare	974	1,297
1996-97	Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust	323	

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

NHS Continuing Care Criteria (Challenges)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of individuals challenging NHS continuing care criteria have been supported by *(a)* community health councils and *(b)* the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service since February 2003. [182711]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not have statistics available on the number of Community Care cases supported by Community Health Councils.

The Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) data collection is based on the complaints subject headings used by the national health service to report on family health services: this does not include a specific category for continuing care. The Department is in the process of reviewing the reporting requirements for the ICAS and a category will be introduced.

NHS Medical Staff

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical staff are employed by each NHS trust in London. [182818]

Mr. Hutton: The number of medical staff employed by each national health service trust in London is shown in the table.

Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS) medical and dental staff in the London region by organisation. England, as at 30 September 2003

		Number	Whole time equivalents
	London	16,685	15,019.1
	of which.		
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	9	9.0
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	594	567.4
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	471	440.3
5A9	Barnet PCT	30	16.4
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	185	168.8
5AX	Bexley PCT	10	7.3
5K5	Brent PCT	22	19.8
RV3	Brent, Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Mental Health NHS Trust	217	202.3
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	259	238.2
5A7	Bromley PCT	25	19.4
TAF	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	141	125.5
5K7	Camden PCT	88	67.7
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	382	346.0
5C3	City and Hackney PCT	33	27.1
5K9	Croydon PCT	8	7.8
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	234	207.1
5HX	Ealing PCT	20	18.6
RWK	East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	179	172.2
5C1	Enfield PCT	12	9.4
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	500	452.2
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust	394	353.2
RG2	Greenwich Healthcare NHS Trust	248	229.4
5A8	Greenwich PCT	31	25.4
RJ1	Guys and St. Thomas's NHS Trust	1,048	934.6
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	62	40.0
RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	911	724.7
5C9	Haringey PCT	22	19.0
5K6	Harrow PCT	21	19.5
5A4	Havering PCT	1	0.8
RAS	Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	256	241.4
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	36	30.8
RQX	Homerton Hospital NHS Trust	257	247.4
5HY	Hounslow PCT	3	3.0
5K8	Islington PCT	47	37.1
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	7	3.9
RJZ	King's Healthcare NHS Trust	844	759.3
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	332	302.0
5A5	Kingston PCT	13	8.8
5LD	Lambeth PCT	12	11.3
RJ2	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	279	266.3
5LF	Lewisham PCT	10	8.8
RJ6	Mayday Health Care NHS Trust	347	317.3
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust	205	176.7
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	194	187.4
5C5	Newham PCT	39	37.4
Q05	North Central London SHA	7	6.7
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	71	65.0
Q06	North East London SHA	7	6.9
RAP	North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	276	254.6
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	602	551.6
Q04	North West London SHA	2	2.0
RPG	Oxleas NHS Trust	94	87.5
RGZ	Queen Mary's, Sidcup NHS Trust	226	209.8
5NA	Redbridge PCT	14	10.9
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1	1.0
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	297	280.1
RAL	Royal Free NHS Trust	677	611.0
RNJ	Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew, The Royal London Hospital and London Chest Hospital	897	836.8
RPY	Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust	223	215.4
RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic NHS Trust	94	90.1
Q07	South East London St. HA	6	5.5
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	507	425.4
RQY	South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	262	238.6
Q08	South West London SHA	3	2.8
5LE	Southwark PCT	10	9.1
RJ7	St. George's Group NHS Trust	696	645.2
RJ5	St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust	642	565.5
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	8	4.3
RNK	Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	40	30.4
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	42	33.1
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	855	734.9
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	12	10.3
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	43	28.4
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	208	190.9
RFW	West Middlesex University NHS Trust	231	216.0
5LC	Westminster PCT	32	22.5

Hospital, public health medicine and community health services (HCHS) medical and dental staff in the London region by organisation. England, as at 30 September 2003

		Number	Whole time equivalents
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	280	263.4
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	282	255.2

Source:
Department of Health medical and dental workforce census

NHS Non-Medical Staff

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many non-medical staff are employed by the NHS in the London borough of Havering; [182819]

(2) how many non-medical staff are employed in each of London's NHS trusts. [182825]

Mr. Hutton: This data is not collected by London borough. However the boundaries of primary care trusts (PCTs) are co-terminous with London boroughs.

The table shows the number of non medical staff employed in each of the London national health service trusts including Havering Primary Care Trust.

The non medical staff grouping includes nurses, health care assistants, technicians, administration staff etc. but does not include doctors employed in either the acute or primary care sector.

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff in the London Government office region by NHS trust as at 30 September 2003

		headcount
London Government office region		161,619
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	657
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4	6,029
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL	3,709
Barnet PCT	5A9	1,304
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	2,211
Barts and The London NHS Trust	RNJ	6,490
Bexley PCT	SAX	581
Brent PCT	5K5	930
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG3	2,081
Bromley PCT	5A7	1,299
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	TAF	1,604
Camden PCT	5K7	1,047
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RV3	2,586
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	ROM	2,296
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	672
Croydon PCT	5K9	963
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	1,578
Ealing PCT	5HX	1,129
East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	RWK	2,233
Enfield PCT	5C1	983
Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	RVR	4,270
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	RP4	2,433
Greenwich PCT	5A8	711
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Trust	RJ1	7,526
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	621
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	RON	4,815
Haringey PCT	5C9	860
Harrow PCT	5K6	648
Havering PCT	5A4	1,514
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	RAS	2,522
Hillingdon PCT	SAT	1,472
Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust	RQX	1,822
Hounslow PCT	SHY	628
Islington PCT	5K8	725
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	1,011
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	RJZ	4,882
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	2,548
Kingston PCT	5A5	768
Lambeth PCT	5LD	746
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	2,491
Lewisham PCT	5LF	1,128
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	RRU	3,812
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ6	2,808
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Trust	RP6	849
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	RNH	1,636
Newham PCT	5C5	1,613
North Central London SHA	Q05	127

NHS hospital and community health services: Non-medical staff in the London Government office region by NHS trust as at 30 September 2003

		headcount
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	RAT	2,433
North East London SHA	Q06	158
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	2,451
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	4,438
North West London SHA	Q04	107
Oxleas NHS Trust	RPG	2,208
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG2	2,323
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RGZ	2,004
Redbridge PCT	5NA	573
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	441
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	RT3	2,311
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	4,642
Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust	RPY	1,739
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	RAN	863
South East London SHA	Q07	101
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	RV5	4,622
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY	2,546
South West London SHA	Q08	90
Southwark PCT	5LE	863
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ7	5,652
St. Mary's NHS Trust	RJ5	4,191
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	1,557
Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	RNK	344
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	1,267
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	RRV	5,299
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	598
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	1,585
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RKL	3,716
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	RFW	1,625
Westminster PCT	5LC	901
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGC	2,802
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	1,801

Source:
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS Posts (E-advertising)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from professional health journals on change in income from job advertising due to e-advertising of NHS posts; and if he will make a statement. [183129]

Mr. Hutton: The Department has had regular meetings with representatives from the health care professions to discuss the national health service e-recruitment project and will continue to work with them. In addition, the Department and the Department of Trade and Industry are working with members of the periodical publishers association to share information about the development of the service, assess its impact and explore ways in which the service and the health journals can work together to support cost effective recruitment into the NHS.

NHS Recruitment (Young People)

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage young people *(a)* to enter the nursing profession and *(b)* to work for the national health service in non-clinical jobs. [184041]

Mr. Hutton: The NHS Careers service, information available on their website at www.nhscareers.nhs.uk, provides information about jobs and careers, clinical and non-clinical, within the national health service. The service is supported by national and local initiatives to promote careers in the NHS to young people including: a competition in secondary schools and colleges of further education to encourage more young people to consider a career in the NHS; an annual, multi-media, high profile recruitment campaign; and NHS Job Shop Day, to be held on 23 September this year. In addition, NHS bursaries are available to nursing and midwifery students undertaking degree or diploma level pre-registration courses. The Department, in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing, has also developed a dedicated website, at www.learnaboutnursing.org, and package of activities aimed at raising the profile of nursing among schoolchildren.

NHS Staffing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff left the NHS in each year since 1991; and what percentage of the total number of staff this represented in each case. [184211]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department's workforce censuses collect information on the number of staff employed in the national health service each year; consecutive years' data therefore show the net change in the workforce, taking account of leavers and joiners.

NHS Treatment (Private Clinics)

Mr. Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of NHS patients who will receive treatment in private clinics over the next three years. [179430]

Mr. Hutton: The independent sector treatment centre (IS-TC) programme is part of a major initiative to create additional capacity within the national health service to reduce waiting times and introduce choice for patients.

When fully operational we expect IS-TCs to provide NHS treatment for up to 250,000 patients per annum.

Information about the number of NHS patients treated in private clinics is not currently available. However, the Department's ongoing capacity planning exercise will give us a better understanding of the shape of procurement plans over the next five years.

We expect the number of NHS patients who receive treatment through the independent sector to increase over the next five years.

Overseas Drugs Sales

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with other governments on preventing companies from overseas advertising, selling and exporting to the UK drugs which are only available with a prescription from a general practitioner. [183494]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The legal controls on the retail sale, supply and advertising of medicines are set out in the Medicines Act 1968 and supporting regulations. They apply without distinction to medicines advertised, sold or supplied through the internet and by mail order.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) replaced the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) on 1 April 2003.

In 1998, the MCA co-ordinated the initial conference of the permanent forum on international pharmaceutical crime (PFIPC). The most recent meeting was in June 2004.

The enforcement group of the MHRA has now established links through the PFIPC with senior enforcement officers from a number of regulatory agencies world-wide, including the United States, Australia, Singapore, South Africa and many European Union countries. Internet related issues are of common concern. Co-operation has been agreed between agencies to assist where possible on criminal investigations.

International co-operation on this issue is challenging because the way medicinal products are supplied, with or without prescription, varies between countries, and variation in national legislation also means that what may be an offence in one country is not necessarily an offence in another.

Physical Activity (Young People)

Mr. Stinchcombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the importance of increasing levels of physical activity among young people. [183529]

Miss Melanie Johnson: In April of this year, the Department published the Chief Medical Officer's report, "At least five a week", which sets out the evidence for the health benefits of physical activity in childhood and adolescence. The report included the recommendation that:

> Children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity each day. At least twice a week this should include activities to improve bone health (activities that produce high physical stresses on the bones), muscle strength and flexibility.

Prevalence of activity and inactivity among children and young people is measured as part of the Health Survey for England. In 2002, the last year for which data are available, 70 per cent. of boys and 61 per cent. of girls met the recommendation.

The benefits of physical activity for young people are not restricted to health. Physical activity in schools can improve academic achievement. Community sport and activity-based programmes for young people, such as "Positive Futures", can help to increase social inclusion.

Between 6 May and 30 June 2004 the Government have consulted on their future physical activity programme in the "Choosing Health? Choosing Activity" document as part of the broader "Choosing Health?" consultation process. The responses will inform the preparation of the Public Health White Paper, which will be published in the autumn and will set out action to address a range of health issues including priorities for increasing physical activity in children and young people.

Product Labelling (Genetically Modified Micro-Organisms)

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by whom the United Kingdom was represented at the European Union Member State Working Group meeting held on 23 June to consider the labelling of products made using genetically modified micro-organisms; what the outcome of the meeting was; what his objectives are for the final outcome of these discussions; what further action he intends to take to promote the achievement of those objectives prior to future developments within the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [183831]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Two officials from the Food Standards Agency attended the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health—section on genetically modified (GM) organisms on 23 June 2004. No decision was made on the scope of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 GM Food and Feed, with regards to products made using genetically modified micro-organisms. The European Commission will forward a position paper in due course to inform further discussion and a decision on this topic at a future Standing Committee meeting.

The Government's position on GM labelling is that the relevant legislation should be practical, proportionate and enforceable. The Government will continue to maintain this position in discussions on the labelling of GM products, which fall within the scope of the EC GM Food and Feed Regulation (No. 1829/2003).

Radioactivity (Public Health)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has commissioned on the impact on the incidence of leukaemia among children aged up to one year who might be exposed while in the womb to radiation doses arising from major radiation leaks; [183976]

(2) if his Department will investigate variations in public health in relation to the proximity to areas of radioactive contamination; and whether the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment has investigated such variations, with particular reference to the Blackwater estuary; [183999]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department has not commissioned such research. However, it has asked the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) to examine the level of childhood cancer around all major nuclear installations in Great Britain to see if there is a different pattern of incidence in those areas, compared with that found elsewhere in the country. Its report is expected to be published in October of this year. COMARE has already advised on two separate studies of cancer in the Bradwell area. Details are available on the COMARE website: www.comare.org.uk

Student Loans

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason student loans are regarded as income for the purpose of assessment for NHS health benefits; and whether loans other than student loans are regarded as income for this purpose. [183324]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is Government policy that funding for student support should be made available from public funds through loans from the Student Loans Company. Resources available for student support from public funds cannot be ignored when calculating entitlement to help from any other public funds. Commercial loans would not be regarded as income.

Warrington Hospital

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting times for *(a)* heart surgery, *(b)* orthopaedics, *(c)* opthalmology and *(d)* cancer treatment were in Warrington in each year since 1997. [183046]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Child Protection

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to place the operation of the four Area Child Protection Committees in Northern Ireland on a statutory footing. [183060]

Angela Smith: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is currently developing a Strategy for Children and Young People in Need which will consider a wide range of child protection matters including placing Area Child Protection Committees on a statutory footing. Decisions on the need for primary legislation will follow on from the completion of the strategy.

Civil Servants (Industrial Action)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the backlog is of applications for MoT certificates at vehicle testing centres as a result of industrial action. [183789]

Angela Smith: The total number of customers who had applied for vehicle tests and who were awaiting test appointments at close of business on 8 July 2004 was estimated to be just over 87,000.

Continuing Care

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether health trusts in the province are required to assess patients for fully-funded continuing care prior to discharge. [183027]

Angela Smith: In Northern Ireland, decisions about discharge from acute hospital care for patients with continuing care needs, including those who may require fully-funded continuing health care, must be made following a comprehensive assessment by clinicians and social care professionals.

Diabetes Mellitus

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to establish a regional implementation group for diabetes mellitus. [182629]

Angela Smith: The Department has established a Regional Diabetes Steering Group, which includes representatives of each HSS Board, to oversee the progress made by each Board in implementing the recommendations of the Crest Taskforce Report on the development of services for people with diabetes. The Steering Group has already met on two occasions to consider the local implementation plans developed by Boards and will continue to monitor the implementation process.

Employment/Industrial Tribunals

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases were heard at *(a)* employment and *(b)* industrial tribunals in Northern Ireland in the months from January to June inclusive in each year since 2001. [180812]

Mr. Gardiner: The Office of the Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal maintains statistics on the number of cases disposed of each month, rather than the number of cases heard. The available figures are as follows:

Cases disposed of by industrial tribunals

2002	
January	505
February	465
March	286
April	332
May	270
June	337

Cases disposed of by industrial tribunals

2003	
January	490
February	435
March	421
April	33
May	415
June	439
2004	
January	265
February	343
March	304

Cases disposed of by Fair Employment Tribunal

2002	
January	52
February	36
March	46
April	44
May	34
June	43
2003	
January	37
February	71
March	46
April	17
May	45
June	38
2004	
January	50
February	57
March	30

The information sought by the hon. Member in relation to 2001 is not readily available and may take some time to collate. I will write to him with the information as soon as it is available. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Fish Stocks

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received about the accuracy of the ascending fish count at Sion Mills; and if he will describe the processes involved in ascertaining the number of fish ascending the River Mourne at this point *(a)* via the fish counters and *(b)* over the man-made weir at Sion Mills. [183218]

Mr. Pearson: The Department has not received any representation about the accuracy of the fish counter at Sion Mills.

(a) There are three separate channels that are monitored by fish counters on Sion Mills weir. These facilities have been monitored by video camera and through graphical output of changes in resistance caused by fish migrating over the counter strips. In addition one of the channels has a facility for the installation of a trap upstream of the counter and this has been used to further validate the counts. In the most recent trapping exercise earlier this year five fish were counted electronically and five fish were trapped during the test period. These validation procedures would confirm that the counter is operating efficiently.

(b) During certain water conditions on the River Mourne salmon can pass over the weir without passing through the fish counting channels. This situation has been recognised since the initiation of the use of fish counts from Sion Mills as the primary management tool for the achievement of escapement targets for the salmon stocks of the area in the 1970's. In such conditions Loughs Agency staff are deployed to undertake visual counts of fish migrating over the weir and not passing through the counting channels. The protocol which continues to be applied to these visual counts is that they are multiplied by a factor of three to allow for periods when visibility is such that observations of these movements is impossible (during hours of darkness).

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fish were recorded by fish counters in the Foyle System in each month in the last three years; and what steps he is taking to develop the Foyle System in the interests of *(a)* conservation and *(b)* angling tourism. [183219]

Mr. Pearson: The figures requested are summarised as follows.

Foyle area fish counter data 2001

Month	*Faughan* [1]	*Finn* [2]	*Roe*	*Mourne* [3]	*Owenkillew/Glenelly*
January	—	15	—	—	—
February	—	8	—	—	—
March	—	48	—	—	—
April	—	133	—	—	—
May	4	233	27	222	15
June	93	2,317	304	3,517	85
July	+	136	365	1,320	260
August	739	127	1,090	338	410
September	274	179	422	281	841
October	259	97	856	358	749
November	116	60	153	167	323
December	33	42	48	27	59
Total	1,518	3,311	3,265	6,250	2,742

[1] Faughan—The Faughan Counter was inoperable during July due to water seeping through to connections and causing corrosion.

[2] Finn—This figure is not a total count for the Finn. Field trials were held on the development of a new resistivity counter on Channel 1 and as a result of teething problems an incomplete count was achieved on this channel for June and part of July. The December figure has become negative due to kelts leaving towards the end of the month.
[3] Mourne—Sion Mills
Similar to the Faughan water seeped through and caused serious problems with corrosion of metallic connections unfortunately this coincided with the main grilse run at the end of June and the beginning of July so this figure is likely to be a substantial underestimate of the run.

Foyle area fish counter data 2002

	Number of fish >45 cm.				
Month	*Mourne*	*Finn*	*Roe*	*Faughan*	*Owenkillew*
January	—	21	34	-4	-14
February	—	34	-1	-19	-6
March	—	403	-15	-3	-6
April	—	238	-28	3	-52
May	239	189	69	72	-11
June	3,906	4,311	778	261	186
July	5,236	284	1,653	1,126	434
August	1,278	51	1,107	1,592	487
September	1,042	55	511	594	655
October	679	141	742	317	1,667
November	432	62	430	259	1,199
December	179	-21	179	30	4
Total	12,991	5,768	5,459	4,228	4,543

Foyle area fish counter data 2003

	Number of fish >45 cm.				
Month	*Mourne*	*Finn*	*Roe*	*Faughan*	*Owenkillew*
January	—	2	—	—	—
February	—	-11	—	—	—
March	—	43	—	—	—
April	—	104	—	—	—
May	127	695	26	5	7
June	6,040	1,371	114	468	493
July	2,837	2,962	1,604	1,182	934
August	212	1	276	430	76
September	1,002	809	518	186	216
October	731	396	954	462	182
November	952	183	535	362	1
December	228	-94	59	2	-1
Total	12,129	6,461	4,086	3,097	1,908

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received about the accuracy of the fish counter on the River Roe; and if he will describe the processes involved in ascertaining the number of fish that ascend this counter. [183221]

Mr. Pearson: The Department has not received any representations about the accuracy of the fish counter on the River Roe.

The fish counter in operation on the River Roe as with the others operating in the Foyle Area provides not only numbers of fish migrating over the counter strips on the weir, but also a graphical representation of the changes in resistance measured by these strips when a fish passes through the counter. These graphical outputs are used to ensure the counter is recording fish migrations accurately.

However, further validation of the Roe counts will be facilitated by the installation of video equipment later this month which will monitor fish passage across the weir and relate this directly to the fish counter and the electronic signal generated.

Headache Sufferers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of cluster headache sufferers who receive domiciliary oxygen in Northern Ireland. [183029]

Angela Smith: The information requested is not available.

Mammogram Screening

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the criteria are for routine mammogram screening in Northern Ireland; and what consideration has been given to amending these criteria. [182623]

Angela Smith: At present in Northern Ireland women between 50 and 64 are invited every three years for mammography screening. While women aged 65 and over are not routinely called for screening, they can make an appointment, if they so wish, through their local screening centre. Plans to extend the screening programme to women aged 65 to 70 are now well advanced here and the Department expects that all Boards will be in a position to begin implementing the extension in 2005.

Mental Health

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what financial resources have been allocated towards tackling mental ill health in Northern Ireland *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* for future years. [183018]

Angela Smith: Details of total expenditure on the Mental Health Programme of Care in Northern Ireland for each of the last five years are listed in the following table:

Year ended March	*Total expenditure (£ million)*
1999	114.8
2000	124
2001	133.2
2002	139.3
2003	150.8

In October 2002 DHSSPS initiated a wide-ranging independent review of the law, policy and service provision affecting people with a mental health problem or a learning disability. The recommendations from this Review are expected to have a strong influence on decisions for future funding for mental health and learning disability services.

Murder Sentencing

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether Northern Ireland will be brought into line with England and Wales in terms of sentencing tariffs for murder following the consultation process; and if he will make a statement. [183239]

Mr. Spellar: The consultation on minimum terms has now concluded and the responses are currently being considered. I hope to publish the Government's response in the autumn.

Northern Ireland Events Company

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding has been allocated to each event to which funding from the current year's Northern Ireland Events Company budget has been allocated. [182585]

Angela Smith: The amount of funding allocated from the current years Northern Ireland Events Company budget to each event is as follows:

(figures up to £)

Major events	*Funding due in 2004–05*
BBC Music Live	149,000
Senior British Open Golf Championship	500,000
FIM World Outdoor Trials	15,000
Circuit of Ireland Rally	19,125
Historic Endurance Rally	40,000
Laser Radial Sailing Championship	16,000
Zapcat National Championships	15,000
North West 200	50,000
Ulster Grand Prix	20,000
NI Milk Cup	41, 206

(figures up to £)

Major events	*Funding due in 2004–05*
Motocross World Championship	90,493
Shell Foyle Cup Football Tournament	30,000
On Eagles Wing	12,500
Titanic Rally	35,328
British Supermoto Championship	10,000
Ireland v West Indies Cricket	15,000
World Ploughing Championship	55,000
Total	1,113,651

(figures up to £)

Events growth fund	*Funding due in 2004–05*
Blues on the Bay	4,500
Carrickfergus Football Tournament	2,000
Cathedral Quarter Festival	5,000
Deny Jazz & Big Band Festival	12,000
Cookstown 100	2,500
D-Day Air show	30,000
Earthquake Festival of Dance	5,000
Fiddlers Green Festival	5,000
Get Down with the Blues	2,500
Holywood Jazz Festival	6,000
Festival of Fools	6,400
Magnus Barelegs Viking Festival	5,000
National Country Sports Fair	10,000
Opera Fringe	10,000
Oscar Wilde Festival	2,600
Sperrins Balloon Festival	3,578
Tandragee 100	6,500
Tommy Makem International Festival of Song	15,307
Appalachian Bluegrass Festival	15,000
Festival of Fish	6,000
Festival of the Peninsula	7,000
Lough Neagh Triathlon	7,000
Ultimate UK Strength Championships	10,000
Total	178,885

PFI/PPP Health Projects

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* private finance initiative and *(b)* public private partnership projects related to health there are in Northern Ireland. [182619]

Angela Smith: The following projects are funded by *(a)* private finance initiative:

Commissioning body	*Project title*
Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital HSS Trust	Car Parking
Homefirst Community HSS Trust	Holywell Hospital Energy Management System
Craigavon Area Hospital HSS Trust	Energy Management System
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	Renal Unit
Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS)	Regional Clinical Waste Disposal Facilities
United Hospitals HSS Trust	Antrim Hospital Renal Unit

Commissioning body	*Project title*
Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital HSS Trust and Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	Link Laboratories
Various HSS Trusts/Boards	All Equipment Leases
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	Cancer Centre Equipment

The 'Equipment Leases' project consists of a variety of 46 leases. The major leases are:

Commissioning body	*Lease*
Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital HSS Trust	Anaesthetics, Theatres and Intensive Care Services
Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital HSS Trust	Fractures/Accident and Emergency Centralisation
Royal Group of Hospitals and Dental Hospital HSS Trust	Redevelopment Scheme
Causeway Hospital HSS Trust	PACS X-Ray Equipment

(b) There are no additional public private partnership projects.

Railway Review Group

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who the members of the Railway Review Group are; and which bodies they represent. [184830]

Mr. Spellar: The Railway Review Group was set up to gather information on the future needs and requirements of railways in Northern Ireland and is comprised of Officials from the Department for Regional Development, the Department of Finance and Personnel and Senior Translink Officials. The group reported to me and I issued a consultation document on 19 May 2004, which will help inform the 2004 Spending Review process.

Railway Service (North West)

Mr. Hume: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if the Government will make the necessary investments to upgrade the present rail service connecting the main cities of the north west region. [184150]

Mr. Spellar: A consultation process in relation to the future investment needs of the Northern Ireland Railways Network is ongoing and the comments and views expressed will be taken into account as priorities are established and decided as part of the 2004 Spending Review.

Respite Care

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the need for provision of respite care. [183414]

Angela Smith: The contribution of informal carers is now widely acknowledged. The provision of respite services is vital for those who provide care, giving them temporary relief from their caring role. Assessment of need for respite care is the responsibility of each Health and Social Services Board and is carried out at a local level. In my Priorities for Action for the HPSS in 2004–05,1 have placed particular emphasis on the need to expand the availability of flexible respite options.

Sewage Outspill, Omagh

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the most recent sewage outspill at Clements Villas, Rodgers Villas and McClay Park in Omagh, West Tyrone; and when he expects this problem to be rectified. [183238]

Mr. Spellar: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Member in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan to Mr. Roy Beggs:

On Saturday 26 June 2004 a severe rainstorm of some 20 to 30 minutes duration caused a rapid run off, of surface water, that overwhelmed the gulleys and drainage systems in this area and some out-of-sewer flooding affected roads and gardens. Water Service Contractors attended the scene and provided assistance to those affected and helped to clean up the debris when the storm subsided. The sewers in the immediate vicinity of the flooding were subsequently inspected and de-silted and a closed circuit television survey was undertaken. The survey identified some defects in the system and arrangements have been made to carry out the required remedial work. It is expected that the work will be completed by early August 2004.

Water Service is currently undertaking a detailed study of the Omagh sewer network that will identify any major work required to improve the capacity of sewers in the region. Implementation of the study's recommendations is programmed to commence in the 2006 financial year, subject to the availability of funding and completion of all statutory processes.

Water Service considers that the proposed interim remedial measures will reduce the risk of further flooding, pending the implementation of the recommendations of the study.

Skin Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* malignant melanomas and *(b)* other skin cancers were detected in the province in each of the last 10 years. [183030]

Angela Smith: The information requested is as follows:

Number of newly diagnosed cases of skin cancer in Northern Ireland (1993–2002)

	Malignant Melanoma (ICD-10 C43)	*Non-melanoma skin cancer (ICD-10 C44)*
1993	185	2,107
1994	183	2,164
1995	173	2,090
1996	178	2,275
1997	158	2,246
1998	186	2,238
1999	182	2,278
2000	183	2,213
2001	211	2,164
2002	241	2,430

Source:
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

Social Care Students

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what financial assistance is available for students of social care from Northern Ireland who are studying in Great Britain; [182631]

(2) if he will provide bursaries to students from Northern Ireland who are studying social care in Great Britain. [182632]

Angela Smith: Students studying across the range of social care qualifications throughout the United Kingdom may be eligible to apply for support in accordance with the Education (Student Support) Regulations. Such support comprises income assessed grants towards tuition fees, higher education bursaries, student loans and supplementary grants.

The Department also operates a discretionary incentive scheme, available only to those social work students domiciled and studying in Northern Ireland in order to benefit Northern Ireland social services. Students from Northern Ireland who wish to study social work outside Northern Ireland will therefore only be eligible to apply to their local Education and Library Board for support. There are no proposals to change these arrangements.

Victims Groups (Counselling)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of counselling services offered by victims' groups in the Province; and if he will make a statement. [179676]

Angela Smith: Where victims' groups offering counselling services apply for funding from the Victims' Groups Core Funding Scheme or from the Victims Measure of the Peace II Programme they are required by the respective Intermediary Funding Bodies to ensure that the counsellors involved have a relevant qualification and that they follow best practice in line with the Social Services Inspectorate's report 'Counselling in Northern Ireland: Report of the Counselling Review' published in 2002. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

In addition, under the auspices of the Victims Strategy Implementation Fund, a research project has been commissioned with a view to establishing empirical evidence of the effectiveness of different approaches to treatment and therapy, including counselling, provided by victims' groups. It is hoped the project will commence in September 2004.

Waiting Times

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest current waiting time is for surgery for trigeminal neuralgia at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. [182626]

Angela Smith: A total of seven patients with trigeminal neuralgia are currently waiting for surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. The average waiting time of these patients is 23 months; the longest waiting time is 39 months.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the proposed waiting list for patients with trigeminal neuralgia requiring surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. [182628]

Angela Smith: There are currently seven patients with trigeminal neuralgia on the waiting list for surgery. The Royal Group of Hospitals Trust, in liaison with the four Health and Social Services Boards, has been working hard to address waiting times for all neurosurgery patients. Current measures include additional clinic and theatre sessions, as well as suitable patients being identified for surgery elsewhere. All patients are treated on the basis of clinical priority.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Young People (Voting)

Bob Spink: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures are being taken to encourage participation of the 16 to 21 age-group in the next general election; and if he will make a statement. [184219]

Mr. Leslie: The Government are keen to ensure that all young people are encouraged to play as full a part as possible in all our democratic processes.

A range of initiatives, such as citizenship education in schools and the UK Youth Parliament, assist this aim. During recent elections, we have sought to bring this learning to life for young people by working with partners to provide mock elections in schools and colleges. We will consider how to take forward such initiatives in future elections.

In addition, the independent Electoral Commission, whose remit includes educating and informing people on electoral matters, makes special efforts to target young people, especially those who are on the point of attaining the right to vote.

Departmental Annual Report

Dr. Cable: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many departmental publications are in storage; and where they are located. [183840]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Constitutional Affairs headquarters does not store bulk copies of departmental publications centrally. Policy divisions within my Department retain small quantities of those publications which they have authored. Retention and storage of publications published by The Stationery Office (TSO) on behalf of my Department (such as the departmental annual report) is a matter for TSO. TSO may also rely on the use of on-demand printing facilities to meet the demand for copies.

The Court Service currently holds stocks totalling 766,000 copies of 82 information leaflets. These are stored in Preston. This represents no more than two months' worth of stock for courts around the country.

The Public Guardianship Office currently holds stock totalling 26,350 copies of six information leaflets at its London HQ.

Legal Services Commission

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs if he will make provision for a dedicated hotline for hon. Members to have access to the management of the Legal Services Commission; and if he will make a statement. [184154]

Mr. Lammy: The Chief Executive and managers of the commission are pleased to deal with inquiries from MPs. The Chief Executive responds personally to all correspondence from MPs received by the LSC's head office.

MP inquiries received by regional customer service teams are, in the first instance, dealt with by the Customer Service Manager and the inquiry will be referred on to more senior managers as appropriate. Where an MP telephone inquiry is directed to a particular department, these too may be escalated to the relevant senior manager. Written complaints or inquiries from MPs are always responded to by a senior manager.

There are no plans to establish a dedicated hotline for Members of Parliament.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the latest average waiting time is for callers to speak to a telephone operator at the Legal Services Commission London Region Office; what measures he proposes to reduce the waiting time; and if he will make a statement. [184155]

Mr. Lammy: The average figure for the Legal Services Commission's London Regional Office to answer each call during the first quarter of 2004–05 is two minutes two seconds. The target waiting time is no longer than two minutes. The average call waiting time for the London Regional Office for the current week is one minute fifty seconds. On average, it receives 356 calls a day.

In June 2003 the LSC introduced a customer service single score to its regional offices. This uses a range of measures covering the significant aspects of good customer service including time taken to perform key tasks, telephone handling skills and complaints handling. The single score allows the Commission to measure performance objectively and focus on areas where there is most need for improvement.

The Legal Services Commission has recently launched new telephone handling standards. An independent specialist company undertakes on-going quarterly assessments of all the LSC's regional offices' telephone performance (including London) to measure capacity for answering telephone queries effectively, politely, and in language that is clear to the customer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Cyprus

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to meet *(a)* Greek, *(b)* Turkish, *(c)* Greek-Cypriot and *(d)* Turkish-Cypriot officials to discuss the future of Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [184029]

Mr. MacShane: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met Ministers from the Governments of Greece and the Republic of Cyprus at the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting on 12 July 2004. We met the elected leader of the Turkish Cypriots, Mr Mehmet Ali Talat in London on 1 July. The Foreign Secretary met Turkish Ministers at the NATO Summit in Istanbul on 28 June.

The Foreign Secretary is meeting the Foreign Minister of Greece next week. I hope to travel to both Greece and Cyprus in the near future.

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance will be made available by *(a)* the UK Government and *(b)* the European Union for the rebuilding of facilities in the town of Famagusta for the joint benefit of Greek and Turkish Cypriots and to develop business enterprises in the town; and if he will make a statement. [184114]

Mr. MacShane: We are working with partners on proposals from the European Commission for financial support to the Turkish Cypriots and special conditions for trade with the north of Cyprus. Once agreed, these measures will have a positive effect on the development and restructuring of infrastructure and will contribute to the overall economic development in the north. I am confident that this will be to the joint benefit of both communities and will facilitate the eventual reunification of the island.

Departmental Accountancy Practice

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the Finance Director of *(a)* the Department and *(b)* the Government Communication Headquarters is; what accountancy qualifications each Director holds; and on how many occasions there has been a qualified opinion on (i) the resource accounts and (ii) other accounts of each in the last five years. [183425]

Mr. Rammell: The Finance Director of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is D R Todd. While he does not have an accountancy qualification, the Chief Accountant is I D Morgan and he is a chartered management accountant. In addition, the Head of Internal Audit and the Head of Financial Planning and Performance are chartered accountants and report directly to the Finance Director. The accounts have had a qualified audit opinion on one occasion (2001–02) in the last five years. The audit opinion on the 2003–04 accounts will be available later in the year.

It is GCHQ's long-standing policy not to name individual members of staff. The GCHQ Director of Policy and Plans has overall responsibility for finances. He has no formal accountancy qualification but he has access to a fully qualified team of accountants.

Since 1999 GCHQ accounts have been expressed in terms of resource accounting. GCHQ's Resource Accounts for FYs 1999–00, 2000–01 and 2001–02 were qualified by the National Audit Office, but the FY 2002–03 accounts were not qualified. GCHQ continues to improve its accounting practices and systems.

Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the nature was of the consultation between the organising board of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and his Department; what response his Department gave; and if he will make a statement. [182937]

Mr. Rammell: The decision to invite musicians from the Chinese People's Liberation Army to participate in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo is a matter for the Tattoo organising board. Foreign and Commonwealth Office advised the Director of the Tattoo that although there were sensitivities surrounding the decision, participation was in accordance with defence diplomacy activities.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the impact on UK foreign policy of the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy proposals set out in the draft European Union Constitution. [184020]

Mr. MacShane: The outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference met our objectives with respect to the Common Foreign and Security Policy in the Constitutional Treaty. These objectives were to ensure that CFSP remains in the hands of member states and is decided at unanimity, whilst supporting proposals to increase the coherence and effectiveness of EU external action. The Government therefore has not commissioned separate research on the proposals for CFSP.

Iran

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the USA on social, political and foreign policy developments in Iran. [183590]

Mr. Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses Iran with the US Secretary of State and other senior Administration officials frequently. We share with the US serious concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, attitude to the fight against terrorism, human rights record and approach to the Middle East Peace Process.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the two directives issued by Mr. Paul Bremer in Iraq on 26 and 27 June relating to foreign contractors in Iraq apply; whether the directives apply equally to all foreign contractors in Iraq; to what extent such contractors will now be subject to Iraqi laws; whether there are exceptions to this; and whether there are different *(a)* arrangements and *(b)* liability for private security firms operating in Iraq and other contractors. [183132]

Mr. Rammell: The regulations applying to foreign contractors and foreign security contractors in Iraq are as set out in CPA Order 17 and CPA Memorandum 17, which can be .ound on the CPA website at www.cpa-iraq.org.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what circumstances the two directives issued by Mr. Paul Bremer on 26 and 27 June authorise the use of force by contractors; to whom they would be responsible for doing so; what opinion has been expressed by the new Iraqi Government about the directives; how they will be implemented; whether they can be changed by the Iraqi Government; how and with whom Iraqi people can pursue claims against contractors; whether the UK Government was consulted about the directives; what input was provided by the UK; and if he will make a statement. [183133]

Mr. Rammell: The regulations applying to foreign contractors and foreign security contractors in Iraq are as set out in CPA Order 17 and CPA Memorandum 17, which can be found on the CPA website at www.cpa-iraq.org. The Order and Memorandum were discussed between Coalition members, including the UK, and with the Iraqi Interim Government prior to their enactment. CPA Orders and memoranda will remain in force until revoked by an Iraqi Government.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the unemployment level was in *(a)* Iraq as a whole and *(b)* the area of Iraq under UK responsibility on the last day of the occupation. [183292]

Mr. Rammell: In the absence of a labour force survey or unemployment benefits in Iraq, neither the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs nor the Coalition Provisional Authority were able to collect accurate unemployment data. Estimates of the percentage of the working age population that is unemployed and under-employed vary between 10 per cent. and 25 per cent.

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Iraqi Government on the protection of Mesopotamiam archaelogy and antiquities. [183455]

Mr. Rammell: Officials of Her Majesty's Government have regular discussions with the Ministry of Culture on the subject of the protection of Mesopotamian archaeology and antiquities.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell) spoke to the Iraqi Minister of Culture on 10 June to offer her support and has since written to him in similar terms.

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many prison facilities are maintained by the occupation powers in

Iraq for the detention of prisoners of war; how many *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* child prisoners are detained in each facility; and how many detainees have been released since April. [175963]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

The only such facility run by the UK in Iraq is the detention facility in Shaibah. At 30 June 2004, there were 50 internees in this facility, of whom one was under 18 years of age. No women were interned.

32 internees were released in April, 56 in May and 26 in June.

Travel Costs

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the travel costs were of civil servants in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its related agencies in each year since 1997. [183905]

Mr. Rammell: Costs of travel of civil servants in the FCO were as follows:

£

	Overseas	*UK*
1996–97	8,362,538.41	926,617.74
1997–98	8,958,084.29	869,842.26
1998–99	10,279,393.92	815,173.24
1999–2000	9, 484,426.58	966,637.06
2000–01	9,866,667.15	1,048,670.89
2001–02	11,446,108.54	1,055,879.66
2002–03	10,061,979.87	1,238,242.38
2003–04	10,410,603.52	1,428,115.92

United Nations

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his policy on reforming the United Nations; and when he next plans to meet his United Nations Security Council counterparts to discuss UN reform. [184022]

Mr. Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my statement in the House on UN reform on 11 November 2003, *Official Report*, columns 199–208, and the "United Kingdom in the United Nations" Command Paper (Cmnd 5898) published in September 2003, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government are firmly committed to reform of the United Nations. As an active UN member, the UK conducts regular exchanges with the UN and other member states on reform. We are working to create a more efficient United Nations, better equipped to meet the challenges of the modern world and deliver the objectives established in the Millennium Declaration.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other Ministers frequently discuss UN reform with their Security Council counterparts and will attend the United Nations General Assembly in September where they will discuss a variety of UN issues, including reform.

The Security Council does not have primary responsibility for reform of the UN system and therefore discussions of these important issues also take place with the wider UN membership.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 16 July 2004

NORTHERN IRELAND

Moylinn GP Co-operative

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in developing a replacement facility for Moylinn Out-of-hours GP Co-operative in Craigavon. [182622]

Angela Smith: The Association of Southern Area Doctors on Call (ASADOC), in conjunction with the Southern Health and Social Services Board and Craigavon Area Hospital Trust, have finalised plans for the development of a new out-of-hours centre on the Craigavon Area Hospital site as a replacement for the current centre at Moylinn.

A contract for the building of new premises has now been agreed, with the work due to start in the near future. The expected date of completion for the new facility is September 2004.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Kyoto

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations her Department has conducted on the ratification of the Kyoto Accord. [183081]

Mr. Morley *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* The UK ratified the Kyoto Protocol, along with the rest of the EU, in May 2002. The Kyoto Protocol is a crucial first step in developing an effective international regime on climate change and we continue to encourage all countries that have not yet done so to ratify. In order to enter into force the Protocol must be ratified by at least 55 countries including developed countries that account for 55 per cent. of this group's greenhouse gas emissions in 1990. Because of the withdrawal of the United States from the Protocol in 2001, entry into force requires ratification by Russia, responsible for 17.4 per cent. of developed countries' greenhouse gas emissions in 1990.

This Department along with others continues to urge Russia to ratify as soon as possible. We believe there are strong economic as well as environmental advantages to Russia of ratification and put these across at every opportunity. We welcomed President Putin's positive statement on 21 May that in light of progress made in WTO negotiations he would accelerate movement towards ratification.

Aarhus Convention

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the EU regarding the Aarhus Convention. [183793]

Mr. Morley: The Department has been actively involved in all discussions within the EU on the Aarhus Convention since the UK and the Community signed it in 1998. The Dutch Presidency of the EU recently indicated that it would reopen negotiations on the package of measures proposed by the European Commission in 2003 to complete implementation of the Convention in the Community. The Department will lead for the UK Government in these negotiations.

Bastroe Channel

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Ukraine regarding the proposed construction of the Bastroe channel and its effect on the Danube Delta; and if she will make a statement; [183691]

(2) what discussions she has had with her counterparts in the EU regarding the proposed construction of the Bastroe channel and its effect on the Danube Delta. [183692]

Mr. Morley: The Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has not had any bilateral discussions with her counterparts in the EU, Romania or Ukraine regarding the proposed construction of the Bastroe channel.

The issue is being discussed at EU level between EU Institutions and the Ukrainian Government. The subject was also raised last week at the EU/Ukraine summit in the Hague.

Practical steps to resolve the issue have already been taken by the Council of Europe. Ukraine has agreed to an independent environmental impact assessment by experts appointed by the Council of Europe, which is scheduled to take place at the end of July. The results will be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. The UK Government fully supports this course of action.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Colman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much good quality combined heat and power plant capacity has been brought online as a consequence of the Government's *(a)* programme of climate change agreements and *(b)* enhanced capital allowances programme. [181957]

Mr. Morley: There has been no assessment made of the change in use of CHP by companies covered by climate change agreements The agreements set targets for improvements in energy efficiency, which in some cases take account of the potential for CHP in the facility. In other cases, operators are required to make an assessment of the potential for CHP, which may result in a change to their targets. Operators are free to meet their targets in a range of ways.

Defra has issued 89 enhanced capital allowance certificates of energy-efficiency to new CHP schemes. Information is not available on the capacity of Good Quality CHP that has been brought online as a result of the availability of Enhanced Capital Allowances.

Environment Agency (Discussions/Public Database)

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what matters the Environment Agency *(a)* has discussed in the past year and *(b)* plans to discuss with other environmental regulators in the European Union; what the outcomes of past discussions have been; what her policy is on transparency of such discussions; and if she will make a statement. [183183]

Mr. Morley: As befits an organisation with its range of regulatory responsibilities, the Environment Agency has frequent contact with other EU and international environmental regulators to share experience and knowledge on mattersconcerning the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. This includes active participation in IMPEL, a network of EU environmental regulators whose purpose is to ensure more effective implementation and enforcement of EU environmental legislation, to share information and experience and to promote good practice. The Agency led a recent IMPEL project on better EU legislation and is leading projects on transfrontier shipments of waste, emissions trading and assessing the impact on human health of environmental emissions. Reports on completed IMPEL projects are published on the IMPEL web-site, as is information about IMPEL's current work programme.

The Agency also participates in a new informal network bringing together the heads of organisations involved in the practical day-to-day implementation of environmental policy in the EU to exchange views on issues of common interest. Discussions at the last meeting focused on evaluating performance and the environmental impacts of agriculture. A summary of the meeting is published on the web-site of the European Environment Agency. The Environment Agency is co-hosting the next meeting of the network jointly with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will propose to the Environment Agency that it maintain a public database summarising the facts, sentence and aggravating and mitigating circumstances of each prosecution it secures. [183198]

Mr. Morley: The Environment Agency maintains a National Enforcement Database, which holds data on prosecutions undertaken, formal cautions administered, and enforcement notices served, including the names of the individuals concerned, the alleged statutory offences, the court that dealt with the offences, the penalty imposed, and the costs awarded. The database is not available to the public, although the Agency is exploring means to make such information as accessible as data protection legislation will allow. Details of major prosecutions resulting in convictions may be accessed via Press Releases posted on the Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk. The Department has no plans to require the Agency to collect further data on prosecutions.

Fallen Stock

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of calf carcases that require disposal she estimates are collected by hunt kennels. [183125]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations have been made to her Department about the role that hunt kennels play in collecting horse carcases. [183124]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has had a number of discussions and representations about the role hunt kennels play in collection of fallen stock but none specifically regarding collection of horse carcases.

Flood Defences (Herefordshire)

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans she has to improve flood defences in Herefordshire; [183174]

(2) if she will make it her policy to ensure that Herefordshire has adequate flood defences. [184066]

Mr. Morley: The relevant legislation provides for the operating authorities, rather than my right hon. Friend, to determine which schemes they wish to promote and their timing. I am aware that the Environment Agency are considering proposals for flood defence works at Hereford. Stakeholder consultations and the initial engineering design work and business justification are reaching the stage where specific proposals can be identified.

I also understand that the Herefordshire county council is considering defence works at Ross-on-Wye.

Land Access

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans are in place to inform walkers *(a)* what land is open access on 19 September and *(b)* what land will be open access at a later date. [183127]

Alun Michael: We are committed to introducing the new right of access in England under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 in every region of England before the end of 2005. The South East and lower North West, will open for access on 19 September. I have announced a timetable for opening access in the other areas to ensure that those people preparing to use their new rights can plan ahead.

We have drawn up a detailed communications framework, in partnership with the Countryside Agency, the Association of National Park Authorities, English Nature, the Forestry Commission, the Local Government Association, the Ministry of Defence and Ordnance Survey. The plan sets out a number of objectives and actions for each organisation so that the public, land managers, interest groups and other stakeholders should be aware, understand and appreciate the new countryside access rights and responsibilities.

Ordnance Survey is carrying out a revision of its Explorer maps to inform walkers about what land is open. It is preparing for the launch of access land in the first two regions in September. In later regions it will also publish updated Explorer maps as close as possible to the commencement of the new rights, with complete coverage scheduled for summer 2006. The maps will provide clear information on access land to map users.

In addition, to coincide with the issue of a new and up-to-date Countryside Code on 12 July, the Countryside Agency launched a new website to help the public find out what they can do and where they can go in the English countryside. The new website contains information about the new access rights and also advice for landowners and managers on how to manage public access and details of the restrictions process. As the new rights are commenced, the website will include a map showing access land in each region. The public will be able to see if other access rights are available (such as bridleways), to check whether any local closures or restrictions are in force and to find the location of local "Access Information Points". An Open Access Contact Centre has also been established to provide information to the public about the new access rights.

We also expect information for walkers to be available locally, from a variety of outlets including National Park visitor centres, and 'on the ground'. The Countryside Agency is issuing guidance to access authorities (National Park Authorities in National Parks and local highway authorities elsewhere) and to land managers on the use of signs. An open access symbol will indicate land that may be open for public access on foot.

Landfill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will make a statement on the difference in the figures for the maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste permitted to be sent to landfill in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2020 between the Final Regulatory Impact Assessment on The Landfill (Scheme Year and Maximum Landfill Amount) Regulations 2004 and the text of the Statutory Instrument The Landfill (Scheme Year and Maximum Landfill Amount) Regulations 2004; [182985]

(2) what the maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste permitted to be sent to landfill in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2020 will be. [182986]

Mr. Morley: The maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste allowed to be sent to landfill in the UK in 2010 is 13.7 million tonnes, decreasing to 9.13 million tonnes in 2013 and to 6.39 million tonnes in 2020. These figures are set out in The Landfill (Scheme Year and Maximum Landfill Amount) Regulations 2004.

Due to an administrative error by my Department, for which I apologise, the published Regulatory Impact Assessment on the Statutory Instrument was not the final version so contained indicative figures for the target years rather than the updated final figures. The correct version of the Final Regulatory Impact Assessment on The Landfill (Scheme Year and Maximum Landfill Amount) Regulations 2004 has now been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Life Cycle Analysis

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on *(a)* her plans for improving the knowledge and application of life-cycle analysis within the British economy and *(b)* international discussions in which her Department is involved to secure international best practice and consistency in such analysis. [183182]

Mr. Morley: The UK Government Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production, published last year, sets out our broad policy approach. This includes an emphasis on policy development which considers the whole life-cycles of products and services in the economy, and which intervenes as early as practicable in the use of natural resources. We will continue to pursue this approach in policy at a national level and in discussion with our international partners. We also support the development and uptake of technical standards and methodologies (principally in the 'ISO 14000' series of the International Organisation for Standardisation) which help to apply life-cycle thinking in the field of impact assessment, product development, product information and environmental management systems.

Livestock Tracing

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that livestock can be traced from birth to slaughter. [183242]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are a number of mechanisms in place to trace livestock. These include:

(a) Registration of holdings where livestock are kept;

(b) Identification of all livestock and in the case of cattle, sheep and goats unique identification from birth;

(c) On-farm registers which record all batch movements of sheep, goats and pigs and individual movements of cattle.

(d) Movement documents to accompany batch movements of sheep, goats and pigs and valid cattle passports to accompany individual movements of cattle.

(e) Notification of movements to the central database.

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons she had not answered by 21 June the question tabled by the hon. Member for Lewes on 22 March, concerning her engagements for the two months from 15 March; [180401]

(2) for what reasons she had not replied by 13 July to the question tabled by the hon. Member for Lewes on 24 June ref 180401. [184548]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 24 June 2004]:* The question tabled by the hon. Member for Lewes on 22 March has now been answered.

Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to minimise the disruption to farmers caused by the Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate; what the estimated average length of farm staff time has been for compliance with the Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate; and what the average length of notice given to farmers prior to an inspection has been. [182916]

Alun Michael: EU regulations require that a specific percentage of claims across all CAP schemes are subject to on the spot checks within defined periods and with limits on the amount of notice that can be given. The Rural Payments Agency endeavour to minimise disruption to farmers by combining different inspections into one visit. An example of this is the Cattle inspections which can incorporate up to six different schemes.

The estimated average length of farm staff time taken on inspections will depend on the type of inspection, the size and clarity of the submitted claim and how that compares with what is found on the ground. However, the RPA is committed to reducing, as far as possible, the time spent on farm by ensuring that its inspectors are fully trained in all aspects of the schemes they are verifying.

EU regulations for on farm inspections require that no notice of inspections to be given. However, for some visits up to 48 hours notice may be given without breaching the regulations. Nevertheless the EU expectation is that visits will take place without notice and only exceptionally should notice be given for example, when farm staff need to gather animals which are extensively grazed.

Rural Proofing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the Countryside Agency's Rural Proofing report. [183914]

Alun Michael: I welcome the Countryside Agency's independent report which shows that in the three years since rural proofing was introduced, it has increasingly become an integral part of departments' policy making process. The report also makes valuable recommendations to government at all levels on further strengthening delivery to rural areas, and recognises the important step that we have made in making rural proofing a thematic issue for all Departments for the 2004 Spending Review.

Rural Strategy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the Rural Strategy update to be published; and what consultation will follow publication. [183708]

Alun Michael: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, hopes to publish the Rural Strategy shortly. Rural policy and delivery is a complex area and we are taking the time we need to ensure that our decisions lead to workable and enduring arrangements.

A wide range of stakeholders and interested parties have been consulted, in particular through the Review of the Rural White Paper, and the Review of Rural Delivery carried out by the noble Lord Haskins. The Department has also worked in close partnership with a wide range of delivery partners and stakeholders in taking forward work on the strategy and on modernising rural delivery and will continue to do so up to and following the publication of the Rural Strategy.

Sugar Beet

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sugar beet producers she expects there to be in the UK in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2014. [183911]

Alun Michael: The number of UK producers growing sugar beet in future years will depend on a range of factors, including the relevant provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy at the time.

Following the issue of a paper in September 2003 on options for reform of the existing sugar regime, we understand that the European Commission may present a further Communication to the Agriculture Council on 19 July setting out their preferred approach. We will not be in a position to make any assessment before then.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sugar beet producers there were in the UK on 1 July *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2003. [183912]

Alun Michael: The June Agricultural Census indicates that the number of holdings in England growing sugar beet were:

(a) 1997—9,358

(b) 2000—8,655

(c) 2003—7,432

Figures for the other UK countries fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authorities.

Note:
Figures prior to 2000 show main holdings only. From 2000 onwards all holdings are included.

Source:
June Agricultural Census

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact the European Commission's White Paper will have on British sugar beet producers. [183915]

Alun Michael: The European Commission issued a paper on sugar reform in September 2003 outlining broad options for political debate. We understand that a further Communication may be presented to the Agriculture Council on 19 July setting out their preferred approach in the light of the reactions they have received. Any assessment will need to await this.

UK Natura

Sue Doughty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Government spending has been allocated to UK Natura 2000 sites of European importance for nature in this financial year. [182994]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not collected in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Natura 2000 sites are underpinned by designation as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), with approximately 70 per cent. of SSSIs being Natura 2000 sites. There is not separate accounting for costs relating to European and National site designations, and protection of Natura 2000 sites is not differentiated from measures to protect SSSIs more generally. Moreover, decisions on spending are devolved in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Measures which contribute to protecting Natura 2000 sites in England include the operation of the planning system, the work of Sea Fisheries Committees, funding from English Nature, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, agri-environment schemes and spending by public bodies in their role as owners of Natura 2000 sites.

In 2002 the European Commission asked member states for a 10 year estimate of forecast spending on Natura 2000 sites. In reply we estimated that, as a minimum, in the region of €50 million per annum was likely to be spent on the UK's network of SSSI and Natura 2000 sites from all sources.

Sue Doughty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the Government's position is on the *(a)* current and *(b)* future role of the EU LIFE-Nature programme in supporting management of the Natura 2000 network in the UK; [182995]

(2) what her policy is on the continuation of an EU fund dedicated to nature conservation; and if she will make a statement. [182996]

Mr. Bradshaw: The EU LIFE-Nature Programme has provided valuable funds for projects that have stimulated best practice in establishing, monitoring and managing Natura 2000 sites. The UK supports the extension of the current enabling EC regulation until 2006 and looks forward to debating the future financing of the Natura network following an expected Commission Communication on the subject due in the next few months.

Waste Management

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of *(a)* municipal waste disposal, *(b)* industrial waste disposal and *(c)* hazardous waste disposal in England. [182993]

Mr. Morley: Government policy on the disposal of waste in England is set out in Waste Strategy 2000.

Waterways

Mr. Bill O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of funding by her Department to British Waterways in 2004–05 is to fund the strategic investment on waterway infrastructure; and if she will make a statement. [183683]

Alun Michael: British Waterways has now cleared its safety-related maintenance backlog and is concentrating on its backlog of statutory arrears, currently standing at £158 million It will be spending £25 million on this work in 2004–05. This represents 42 per cent. of its grant in aid from Defra (£59 million). BW hopes to eliminate its backlog of statutory arrears by 2012.

HEALTH

Cancer

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* incidence, *(b)* mortality rate and *(c)* survival rate for cancer among the (i) white and (ii) black and minority ethnic population was in each of the last five years for which information is available; [182703]

(2) what the five most prevalent types of cancer are in the *(a)* black Caribbean, *(b)* black African, *(c)* Indian, *(d)* Pakistani, *(e)* Bangladeshi and *(f)* Chinese ethnic groups; [182704]

(3) what the *(a)* incidence of, *(b)* mortality rates for and *(c)* survival rates for cancer were among the (i) black Caribbean, (ii) black African, (iii) Indian, (iv) Pakistani, (v) Bangladeshi and (vi) Chinese ethnic groups in England in each of the last five years for which information is available. [182709]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The data item, ethnic origin, was introduced in 1993 when the cancer registration minimum data set was established by the Department. This is an optional item for collection and the data held are not complete. It is not, therefore, possible to provide data on cancer incidence and survival broken down by ethnicity.

Cancer mortality data are not available broken down by ethnic group as ethnicity is not recorded as part of death registration.

Dentistry

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children in (i) Leeds, (ii) Leeds, North-West and (iii) Otley are waiting to be registered with a NHS dentist. [183320]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is not collected in the format requested. However, the tables show the numbers and percentages of adults and children in Leeds registered with a national health service dentist against the population numbers for each Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Number of adult registrations as at 31 May 2004 and percentage of the population

Primary Care Trust	*Number registered at 31 May 2004*	*Population*	*Percentage*
Leeds West	44,879	83,180	54.0
Leeds North East	39,701	86,101	46.1
East Leeds	61,884	121,553	50.9
South Leeds	55,407	110,207	50.3
Leeds North West	59,439	153,301	38.8

Number of child registrations as at 31 May 2004 and percentage of the population

Primary Care Trust	Number registered at 31 May 2004	Population	Percentage
Leeds West	14,803	25,711	57.6
Leeds North East	14,780	25,423	58.1
East Leeds	21,979	41,204	53.3
South Leeds	21,021	35,628	59.0
Leeds North West	24,021	32,092	74.9

Number of registrations as a percentage of population for adults and children as at 31 May 2004

Primary Care Trust	Adult	Child	Adult and child
Leeds West	54.0	57.6	54.8
Leeds North East	46.1	58.1	48.9
East Leeds	50.9	53.3	51.5
South Leeds	50.3	59.0	52.4
Leeds North West	38.8	74.9	45.0

Source:
Department of Health

Elder Abuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring has taken place of use of the helpline run by Action on Elder Abuse; and how many calls have been received in each year since its inception. [182636]

Dr. Ladyman: Action on Elder Abuse is an independent charity. Its published reports, "Hearing the Despair" and "Listening is Not Enough", contain details of calls made to its helpline. A third report, "Hidden Voices, Hidden Rights, Hidden People", will be published this summer and will contain an analysis of calls to the helpline.

Falls and Osteoporosis

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role strategic health authorities play in monitoring the integration of falls and osteoporosis services. [183332]

Dr. Ladyman: Strategic health authorities are the key link between the Department and the national health service. They ensure that national priorities, such as the development of falls services, are integrated into plans for the local health service. Their role is to ensure coherency and developing strategies for the local health service, ensure high quality performance of the local health service and its organisations, working towards improved performance, and to building capacity in the local health service.

Radioactivity (Public Health)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what countermeasures his Department recommends to protect public health in the event of *(a)* an incident similar to the Chernobyl disaster of April 1986 and *(b)* a terrorist attack on a nuclear installation which entailed the release of radioactive species to the environment. [183974]

Miss Melanie Johnson: For many years, Government have required that nuclear installations have in place plans to deal with a release of radioactive material from those sites. These plans must be sufficiently flexible to account for much larger releases than might be expected from ordinary running conditions. Each plan is site specific and details are available from the operators of each installation.

In 2002, the Department reviewed stocks of strategic materials that might be required by the national health service in the event of a terrorist attack on a major nuclear installation. For security reasons, details are not disclosed.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received regarding the links between cannabis and schizophrenia; and if he will place a copy of these studies in the Library. [184869]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The Department commissioned and received the following research projects as part of the drug misuse policy research initiative, which funded £2.4 million research between 2000 and 2003.

Long term heavy cannabis use: patterns and problems. Mr. Niall Coggans, Strathclyde Institute for Biomedical Sciences.

A national epidemiological study of dually diagnosed substance misuse and psychiatric disorders between 1993–98, using the General Practice Research Database. Dr. Martin Frischer, Keele University.

Co-morbidity in the National Psychiatric Morbidity Surveys. Dr. Michael Farrell, Dr. Colin Taylor, Institute of Psychiatry.

Co-morbidity of substance misuse and mental health problems: a study of the prevalence and patterns of co-morbidity and the need for services among treatment populations. Mr. Tim Weaver, Imperial College School of Medicine.

Dual Diagnosis in a Primary Care Group (PCG), (100,000 population locality): a step-by-step epidemiological needs assessment and design of a training and service response model. Dr. Geraldine Strathdee, Oxleas National Health Service Trust. In addition, the Department has recently commissioned, jointly with the Medical Research Council, a multi-site, randomised controlled trial: "Evaluating a psychological intervention for clients with schizophrenia and co-morbid substance abuse". Copies will be placed in the Library.

The Department also monitors research in this area and has a range of expert advisers to inform policy.

Solvent Abuse

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have died of solvent abuse in each of the last 10 years. [184587]

Miss Melanie Johnson: Statistics, collected by St. George's Hospital Medical School on behalf of the Department on the number of deaths by volatile substance abuse in the United Kingdom for the last available 10 years, are set out in the following table.

	Number
1992	85
1993	79
1994	67
1995	77
1996	78
1997	78
1998	80
1999	75
2000	65
2001	63

Source:
St. George's Hospital Medical School: "16th Annual Report on Trends in Death Associated with Abuse of Volatile Substance 1971–2001—Key findings for 2001".

St. Helens and Knowsley Hospital Trust

Mr. Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed by the St. Helens and Knowsley Hospital Trust in each year from 1997 to 2004. [184616]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out by the St. Helens and Knowsley Hospital Trust in each year from 1997 to 2004. [184618]

Miss Melanie Johnson: The information is shown in the table.

Finished consultant episodes: number of procedures carried out in St. Helens and Knowsley National Health Service Trust in England 1997–98 to 2002–03
RBN St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust

	Finished episodes
1997–98	37,275
1998–99	42,676
1999–2000	41,764
2000–01	42,336
2001–02	43,585
2002–03	40,087

Notes:
Grossing—Figures are grossed for both coverage and missing/invalid clinical data, except for 2001–02 and 2002–03, which are not yet adjusted for shortfalls.
These figures represent a count of all mentions of an operation in any of the 12 (4 prior to 2002–03) operation fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field during an episode, all operations are counted.
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider.
Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Department of Health

WORK AND PENSIONS

Mr. Peter Beamish

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons Mr. Peter Beamish of Harbertonford, Devon was not advised by the social security office that he would not receive payments for working tax credit and child tax credit until April 2003; for what reasons Mr. Beamish was not advised to reapply for working families tax credit to cover the period January to March 2003; and for what reasons Mr. Beamish's application for special payment for a misdirection has been rejected. [182766]

Jane Kennedy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Jobcentre Plus, David Anderson. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from David Anderson to Mr. Anthony Steen, dated 16 July 2004:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply direct to your question concerning the advice given to Mr. Peter Beamish by the social security office about tax credits. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Details of individual claims are confidential and I will write to you directly on the matter in question.

This is in line with Part 2, paragraph 12 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Pensioner Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what median pensioner income is; and how many and what percentage of *(a)* individual pensioners and *(b)* pensioner households have an income below median pension income. [182076]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 21 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

State Pension

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the level of expenditure on the basic state pension in financial years *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06 and *(c)* 2006–07 in (i) the UK and (ii) Scotland. [184573]

Malcolm Wicks: The available information is the table.

Basic State Pension Great Britain and Scotland

£ million

	Great Britain[1]	Scotland[2]
2004–05	41,230	3,691
2005–06	42,981	3,848
2006–07	44,829	4,013

[1] Figures are for Great Britain and have been rounded to the nearest million and are consistent with the Comprehensive Spending Review 2004. Information for Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.
[2] Figures for Scotland are derived from information used to inform the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis, 2004, and are not explicitly forecast. The figures assume that the future proportion of expenditure on Basic State Pension is the same as that in 2002–03.

Unclaimed Assets

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans the Government have to use unclaimed assets to boost the assistance he has offered those members of occupational pension schemes who will not be covered by the Pension Protection Fund. [183263]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire (Mr. Sayeed) on 5 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 546–47.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Accounting Practice

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs who the Finance Director of the *(a)* National Archives, *(b)* Land Registry, *(c)* Crown Office and *(d)* the Department is; what accountancy qualifications each Director holds; and whether there has been a qualified opinion on (i) the resource accounts and (ii) other accounts of each in the last five years. [183431]

Mr. Lammy: The information is as follows:

(a) The National Archives' Director of Strategy, Finance and Resources does not have formal accountancy qualifications. The Head of Financial Services, who reports to the Director, is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

(b) The Finance Director of Land Registry is Mrs. Heather Foster, who is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

(c) Crown Office does not have a separate Director of Finance, and its financial management being administered by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

(d) The Director General, Finance of the Department for Constitutional Affairs is Mr. Simon Ball, who is a qualified Associate Chartered Accountant and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

(a), *(b)* There has been an unqualified opinion on accounts for the National Archives and the Land Registry in each of the last five years.

(c), *(d)* The resource accounts for 1999–2000 and 2000–01 for the Department for Constitutional Affairs, which includes the Crown Office, were qualified. The accounts for 2001–02 and 2002–03 received an unqualified opinion. Accounts for 2003–04 will be published later in this year.

Environmental Court

Norman Baker: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the Department's policy is on the establishment of an environmental court; and what representations have been received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on this matter. [184545]

Mr. Leslie: The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) is concerned to ensure a high quality of justice in environmental matters. Establishing a dedicated environmental court or tribunal would require primary legislation as well as re-prioritisation of funding and resources within government. DCA and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are working together on a wider review of environmental justice systems in England and Wales, and are considering evidence and arguments for and against a dedicated court in that context.

House Prices

Mr. Tony Clarke: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the percentage change in house prices in Northampton was in each of the last five years. [184839]

Mr. Lammy: Based on the average house prices in Northampton for each year, the percentage changes are:

	Percentage
1998–99	6.6
1999–2000	19.0
2000–01	13.5
2001–02	15.6
2002–03	16.7

Mr. Flook: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the percentage change in house prices was in *(a)* Taunton Deane, *(b)* West Somerset and *(c)* Somerset in each of the last five years. [184648]

Mr. Lammy: Based on the average house prices in the three areas for each complete year, the percentage changes are:

	Percentage
Taunton Deane	
1998–99	8.5
1999–2000	18.0
2000–01	8.6
2001–02	26.0
2002–03	18.2
West Somerset	
1998–99	1.0
1999–2000	13.0
2000–01	19.0
2001–02	21.0
2002–03	22.0
Somerset	
1998–99	10.7
1999–2000	16.7
2000–01	10.8
2001–02	22.3
2002–03	17.5

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182947]

Mr. Lammy: Since 1997, 12 non-departmental public bodies have been established and seven have been abolished.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Charter

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make it a requirement of the BBC's Charter Renewal that it provide high quality, informative and educational programmes which promote family values. [184064]

Tessa Jowell: The Government have not reached any conclusions in the BBC Charter Review except that it will result in a strong BBC, independent of Government. My Department has already received a wide range of views in response to our initial open consultation. There will be further opportunities to debate the key issues, including the range and quality of BBC programmes, before the Government draw their conclusions in due course.

Tourism (London)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue she estimates tourism generated for London in the last year for which figures are available. [184269]

Mr. Caborn: Figures on tourism revenue in London are available for 2002 and these are shown in the table.

Type of tourism	*Expenditure in London in 2002 (£ million)*
International visits including an overnight stay	5,788
Domestic visits including an overnight stay	2,818
Domestic day visits[1]	3,690
Total	12,296

[1] Domestic day visits expenditure figure is for the financial year 2002–03

Sources:

International Passenger Survey, UK Tourism Survey, GB Leisure Day Visits Survey

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on promoting London as a tourist destination *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* internationally in 2003–04. [184277]

Mr. Caborn: In 2003–04, the Department allocated £1.5 million for marketing London overseas in support of the Mayor's Tourism Strategy for London. This marketing was carried out by VisitLondon, whose net spending on campaigns, including funding from the GLA and the London Development Agency, was approximately £11 million in the domestic market and £5.8 million overseas.

London tourism also benefited from the Department's grant-in-aid of £35.5 million to VisitBritain for the promotion of Britain overseas, and £10.4 million for the domestic marketing of England.

DEFENCE

Cadet Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he is taking to ensure that each of the military cadet forces has full access to relevant military ranges and equipment. [184157]

Mr. Caplin: Although the regular and reserve forces must, of necessity, have priority access to military ranges and equipment, the cadet forces, particularly at this time of year when they undergo training at Annual Camps throughout the UK, utilise military ranges and equipments that are available and suitable. The administration of these resources is conducted by the relevant single Service.

D-Day Memorial Services

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which members of the Government attended the D-Day memorial services in Normandy. [183566]

Mr. Caplin: The commemorations in France to mark the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and the Normandy Campaign were attended by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans. A number of other Parliamentarians and representatives of the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly attended as guests of Her Majesty's Government.

Iraq

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* regiments and *(b)* other units have been identified with the arrest, transportation, disorientation and interrogation of prisoners in Iraq. [182922]

Mr. Ingram: All British forces personnel in Iraq have the authority to detain and transport persons who pose a threat to safety or security. Prisoners are interrogated at the Divisional Temporary Detention Facility, only by individuals specifically trained for that task. Disorientation, as an interrogation technique, is not permitted and is prohibited by law.

Personnel Outflow

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 31 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 1483W, on Personnel Outflow, how many people discharged under code QR 9.411 were medically downgraded to P.7. [183814]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 July 2004]:* Within the Regiments listed in my answer, none of those soldiers discharged under QR 9.411 was medically downgraded to P.7.

SERCO-Denholm

Mr. Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the adequacy of the pension provision made for departmental staff transferred to SERCO-Denholm Ltd. under the Marine Services

Market test of 1995; and if he will make a statement on the compliance of SERCO-Denholm with its obligations to those employees. [181582]

Mr. Caplin *[holding answer 30 June 2004]:* The Ministry of Defence staff who transferred to SERCO-Denholm Ltd. following the Marine Services Market Test of 1995 were offered a pension scheme, which was certified by the Government Actuary's Department as being broadly comparable to the benefits offered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) at that time. SERCO-Denholm has complied fully with its obligations to staff in its Marine Services contract with the MOD.

Staff Cars

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the range of options of Grade A staff cars available to senior officers in the armed forces was in the years 2002 and 2003, giving the country of manufacture of each model; and what changes were made to the range of options in 2004. [181452]

Mr. Caplin: In the United Kingdom, the range of Grade A staff cars available in 2003 was as follows:

United Kingdom—Range of available Grade A staff cars

Manufacturer/Model	*Engine/Trim*	*Country of manufacture*
Vauxhall		
Omega	2.5 litres	Germany
Omega	2.0 litres	Germany
Vectra	2.0 litres	Germany
Ford		
Mondeo	2.0 litres	Belgium
Rover		
75	Connoisseur SE	United Kingdom
75	CDT Club	United Kingdom

The same range of vehicles were available in 2002. For 2004 a revised policy has been endorsed for the United Kingdom. The new policy reflects changes in the models available and offers a choice of models to Senior Officers:

United Kingdom—Indicative car models[1]

Senior Officers/Type	*Engine/Trim*	*Country of manufacture*
Chief of Defence Staff[2]		
Rover 75 Saloon	[3]—	UK
Rover 75 Tourer	[3]—	UK
Toyota Avensis Saloon	2.0 T Spirit	UK
Vauxhall Signum	3.0CDTi Elite	Germany
Vauxhall Signum	3.2 Elite	Germany
Members of Defence Council and Commanders in Chief[4]		
Ford Mondeo Saloon	2.5 GhiaX	Belgium
Nissan Primera Saloon	2.0 SVE	UK
Rover 75 Saloon	[3]—	UK
Toyota Avensis Saloon	2.0 T4	UK
Vauxhall Signum	2.2 Elite	Germany
Vauxhall Vectra Saloon	2.2 Elite	Germany
4/3*/2* Officers*		
Ford Mondeo Saloon	2.0 Zetec	Belgium
Nissan Primera Saloon	2.2 SE	UK
Rover 75 Saloon	[3]—	UK

United Kingdom—Indicative car models[1]

Senior Officers/Type	*Engine/Trim*	*Country of manufacture*
Rover 75 Saloon	[3]—	UK
Toyota Avensis Saloon	2.0 T3x	UK
Vauxhall Signum	2.0 Design	Germany
Vauxhall Vectra Saloon	2.2 Design	Germany

[1] Provided by the UK White Fleet contractor. The specification is by size rather than make.
[2] Also available to Secretary of State and Permanent Under-Secretary.
[3] Details not currently available due to changes to the range.
[4] Available to both military and civilian members of the Defence Council.

For Germany the position is as follows:

Germany

Manufacturer/Model	*Engine/Trim*	*Country of manufacture*
Range of available Grade A staff cars: 2002 and 2003		
Opel		
Omega	2.0 litres	Germany
VW		
Passat	2.3 litres	Germany
Range of available staff cars: 2004		
Opel		
Signum[1]	3.0 litres	Germany
Audi		
A4[1]	2.5 litres	Germany

[1] Model changes following contract re-let and manufacturer's changes to range.

Territorial Army

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army have not yet received their annual bounty due on 1 April. [184164]

Mr. Caplin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 215W, to the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Promotions

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of sales promotions and volume special offers of alcoholic drinks in licensed premises on levels of alcohol consumption by customers; and if he will hold discussions with the alcohol industry to curb excessive promotions. [183656]

Caroline Flint: We are currently holding discussions with the alcohol industry about clamping down on irresponsible promotions. This will be an important component of the social responsibility schemes that we are drawing up together with the industry in line with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England recommendations.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to police forces in relation to the holding of immigration detainees in police cells; and if he will place copies in the Library. [181509]

Ms Blears: Under the Immigration Act 1971, a police station is a designated place of detention. The provisions of the Code of Practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (Code C) issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 do not apply to people whose detention is authorised by an immigration officer under the 1971 Act.

However, Code C requires that persons detained at police stations on behalf of the Immigration Service are subject to periodic review as a matter of good practice. The purpose of such reviews is to check the particular power under which a detainee is held continues to apply, any associated conditions are complied with and to make sure appropriate action is taken to deal with any changes.

Avon and Somerset Police

Dan Norris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants his Department has provided to Avon and Somerset Police Force in each financial year since 2001. [182496]

Ms Blears: The information is set out in the table.

£ million

	2001–02	*2002–03*	*2003–04*	*2004–05*
General police grants[1]	[2]148.7	152.3	157.1	162.2
Crime Fighting Fund	2.7	4.4	5.3	5.7
Rural Policing Fund	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Airwave	6.5	0	0.5	0.3
DNA Expansion Programme	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Capital grant[3]	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.4
National Intelligence Model	0.3	0	0.1	0.1
Air Support Grant	0.7	0	0	0
Recovered Assets Fund	0	1.0	0	0
Premises Improvement Fund	0	0.5	0.4	0
Intensive Supervision and Monitoring Scheme	0	0.02	0.03	0.04
Street Crime Initiative	0	2.3	1.2	1.2
Community Support Officers	0	0.2	0.6	[5]0.7
Strategy for a Healthy Police	0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Police Standards Unit support	0	0.07	0.3	0.05
Criminal Justice Interventions Programme—Drug Testing[4]	0	0.07	0.2	0.4
CJIP—Arrest Referral[4]	0	0.2	0.4	0.4
Fixed Penalty Notices for Disorder—IT support	0	0	0.1	0
Video Facilities Fund	0	0	0.02	0
J Track Funding (IT tracking persistent offenders)	0	0	0.03	0
Basic Command Unit Fund	0	0	1.8	1.8
Special Priority Payments	0	0	0.9	[4]0.9
Crime Reduction Funding (directly to the force)	1.6	0.1	0	0
Total[5]	165.0	166.0	174.0	179.2

[1] General police grants include principal Home Office police grant and ODPM Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates.
[2] General Police grant figures for 2001–02 were not directly comparable with 2002–03 due to the change in funding arrangements for NCS and NCIS (transferred from local to central funding). The actual figure for 2001–02 was £152.6 million. A notionally adjusted figure for 2001–02, £148.7 million, is included for comparability with later years.
[3] Capital grant figures only. Police authorities also received revenue support grant associated with Supplementary Credit Approvals—now Supplementary Credit Expenditure (Revenue).
[4] Estimates for 2004–05.
[5] Rounded to one decimal point.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary has also been allocated ring-fenced grant in 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 for counter-terrorism purposes.

As a statutory member of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) within the Avon and Somerset area, the police authority can draw upon strategic funding for crime reduction paid to CDRPs, such as the Building Safer Communities Fund. This funding amounted to £1.4 million in 2001–02, £3.1 million in 2002–03, £2.1 million in 2003–04 and £2.4 million in 2004–05.

Bichard Inquiry Report

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to respond to the criticisms of the Home Office contained within the Bichard Inquiry Report; and if he will make a statement. [181695]

Mr. Blunkett *[holding answer 1 July 2004]:* I made a full statement to Parliament on 22 June setting out my first response to the Bichard Report. I take the report's findings very seriously and accept its conclusion that many organisations and individuals share the responsibility for failures in information handling including, in part, the Home Office. All Government Departments with responsibilities under the report are developing urgently a programme for addressing its findings and implementing its recommendations. The Home Office will co-ordinate this programme of work.

In particular, I have announced the planned introduction of the first National Police Intelligence Computer system, entitled 'IMPACT', which will ensure that all police forces use the same system to manage and share intelligence information. I have also undertaken, in partnership with tripartite stakeholders, to develop a statutory code of practice on police information handling, to be introduced by the end of this year, which will require all forces to deal with intelligence information in the same way.

CCTV

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public funds were available for CCTV in each of the last five years for the Essex constabulary area. [183600]

Ms Blears: Funding for CCTV in the Essex police force area, in the last five years, was made available from the following funding streams:

£

Funding streams	*Amount*
2000–01	
Crime Reduction Programme	757,470
2001–02	
Crime Reduction Programme	1,107,131
2002–03	
Crime Reduction Programme	485,608
Safer Communities Initiative	26,900
Communities Against Drugs	57,000
2003–04	
Building Safer Communities Fund	78,106
2004–05	
Building Safer Communities Fund	84,500

Licensing Hours (Policing Costs)

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of changes in the cost of policing arising from proposals to extend licensing hours. [184016]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment, published with the Licensing Bill when it was delivered to the House of Commons in March 2003 estimated that the impact on the police of the provisions, when fully implemented, would be largely cost neutral. This estimate had particular regard to the effect of flexible opening hours.

Street Crime (London)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much is being spent on the prevention of street crime in London in 2004–05. [184280]

Ms Blears: In addition to its funding through the police grant, the Metropolitan Police Service has been allocated £11,008,000 for operations against street crime in 2004–05.

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mistakes have been made in payment to people who have applied for child tax credit. [180405]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Tax credits continue to play a key part in meeting the Government's objectives to abolish child poverty and make work pay, and 6.0 million families are benefiting from them (as at 5 April 2004.)

Where mistakes are made, the Inland Revenue makes every effort to put them right as quickly as possible.

European Union (UK Employment)

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of jobs in each region of the UK *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly dependent on trade with the European Union. [184525]

Ruth Kelly: The Treasury estimates that 3 million jobs in the UK are linked, directly and indirectly, to the export of goods and services to the European Union. This figure is based on the assumption that the share of total UK employment associated with UK exports to the EU is equal to the share of total UK value added (GVA) generated by UK exports to the EU. The information necessary to apply the same method to derive comparable estimates for each region of the UK is not available.

Parliamentary Answers

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 836W, on trade (endangered species), if he will break down the information provided by species; and whether animals which have died in transit are included in the figures. [184607]

John Healey: HM Customs and Excise seized specimens from approximately 400 genera or species in the years 2001 to 2003. I am arranging for a full list to be placed in the Library of the House.

Customs seizure records include any that are found to be dead at the times of seizure.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 8 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 816W, what representations he has made to the European Commission about the extension of the derogation relating to red diesel. [184769]

John Healey: The derogation is due to expire on 31 December 2006. We will be considering the UK's position before then, including views expressed by stakeholders and in light of all relevant social, environmental and economic factors.

Pension Contributions (Tax Relief)

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of tax relief on

pension contributions to be provided in financial years *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06 and *(c)* 2006–07 in (i) the UK and (ii) Scotland. [184574]

Dawn Primarolo: The information in the format requested is not available. Available estimates of the cost of tax relief for private pensions in the UK are published in table 7.9 of Inland Revenue Statistics. The latest version is on the Inland Revenue website: http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7_9.pdf

These estimates are due to be updated in September 2004 and will cover financial years 1998–99 to 2003–04.

Pension-age Taxpayers (Scotland)

Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many state retirement pension age taxpayers there were in Scotland in *(a)* 2000–01 and *(b)* 2001–02, broken down by constituency. [184571]

Dawn Primarolo: It would be possible to provide a reliable answer only at disproportionate cost.

Tax System

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent research his Department has evaluated relating to reform of the taxation system. [184017]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to developing the evidence base to help inform future policies. Tax measures are informed by in house research and analysis or, in some cases, research commissioned from consultants and academics. The Government also maintains good links with academics, researchers, research institutes and research councils working on tax policy and delivery in this and other countries and carefully consider their work and its relevance for us in the policy development process.

Recent research that has been published can be found on the relevant departmental website.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Brazil

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government are giving to the Government of Brazil to alleviate poverty. [184179]

Hilary Benn: In 2004–05 DFID will provide £4.45 million through its bilateral programme in Brazil. This concentrates on four of the poorest states in the North and North East. Its principal aims are to enable poor people to benefit from economic development, and to make public service allocation and delivery more responsive to the needs of poor people.

DFID provides about £12 million a year to Brazil through its share of the activities of the European Commission and United Nations agencies. In addition, the UK is a shareholder of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank which both lend about $1.5 billion a year to Brazil.

DFID also supports non-governmental organisations working in Brazil. Under DFID's Civil Society Challenge Fund, we are providing £204,000 in 2004–05 for activities in Brazil. From 2005 onwards DFID will be providing £7 million for the Latin America and Caribbean region through major UK based NGOs through our Partnership Programme Agreements. A number of these organisations currently support activities in Brazil.

Departmental Publications (Storage)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many departmental publications are in storage; and where they are located. [183861]

Hilary Benn: DFID currently has some 630,000 publications in stock. These include a range of Assistance Plans, Strategies, Reports and Evaluations totalling 1,500 titles.

An average of 18,000 publications are sent out each month. They are stored at EC Logistics in Sevenoaks, Kent.

EU Markets

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received from officials in less developed countries regarding opening up European Union markets to assist development. [184069]

Hilary Benn: I speak regularly with many developing country Ministers and officials, including on trade. Many of them have formed alliances and come together to agree common positions on trade, for example under the G90 banner, which comprises members of the Africa Union, the group of African Caribbean and Pacific Countries, and the group of Least Developed Countries. Their position on agriculture for example, as set out during a recent meeting they held in Guyana, is that they want progress in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the three key issues of reducing export subsidies, reducing trade distorting domestic subsidies, and increasing market access for developing country exports.

They recognise however that increasing market access through general tariff reductions will have an impact on those developing countries that benefit from trade preferences—the problem of so-called preference erosion. The main focus now is on the WTO General Council that will meet at the end of July in Geneva, where I hope a satisfactory agreement will be reached to provide a framework for more detailed negotiations later in the year.

PFI/PPP Contracts

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public-private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182267]

Hilary Benn: DFID has let no contracts since 2001–02 to these consultants for advice on private finance initiative and public private partnership contracts. DFID issued an earlier contract to PricewaterhouseCoopers for advice on tax matters relating to CDC (formerly known as the Commonwealth Development Corporation) and paid fees of £87,000 in FY 2001–02 and £74,000 in FY 2002–03.

CDC, which is wholly owned by DFID but has its own board and management and takes its own operational decisions, has engaged some of these consultants to advise on its reorganisation as follows.

Financial year	*Consultant*	*Fees paid (£)*
2001	None	—
2002	KPMG	200,000
2003	KPMG	1,120,000
2003	Ernst and Young	17,000
2004	KPMG	21,000
2004	Deloitte and Touche	3,000

Ernst and Young are also the CDC's auditors.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Council Tax

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Local Government Minister next plans to meet local government representatives to discuss council tax. [184031]

Mr. Raynsford: I meet local government representatives regularly to discuss local government finance matters including council tax.

Government Estate (Sustainable Development)

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the non-office sites within the departmental estate which have been identified as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings. [182894]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister initially identified the following non-office sites as being likely to provide opportunities for significant water savings:

The Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

The Queen Elizabeth the Second Conference Centre, London.

Since the inception of the Sustainable Development in Government initiative, the Fire Service College's non-training water usage has been reduced by 28 per cent. per annum. However, due primarily to the increased business use of the QEII, water usage of the centre has risen by 13 per cent. Initiatives are planned to further reduce consumption.

Since November 2002, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has monitored Department's performance against the Framework targets in the annual Sustainable Development in Government reports (http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/sdig/reports/index.htm). The Second Annual report, published in November 2003, contains data based on the financial year April 2002 to March 2003. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Housing

Mr. Flook: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent research he has evaluated on the demand for social housing in *(a)* Taunton Deane and *(b)* the South West of England; and if he will make a statement. [184638]

Keith Hill: It is the responsibility of Taunton Deane and other housing authorities to ensure that the provision of affordable housing is made on the basis of robust local assessments of needs. A demonstrable lack of affordable housing to meet local needs is a material planning consideration, which should be taken into account in formulating development plan policies and in deciding planning applications involving housing. Government have issued guidance on how to undertake local housing needs and market assessments.

Taunton Deane borough council conducted a housing needs survey to underpin the Stock Option Appraisal which it is presently conducting in order to meet the Government's decent homes standard by 2010. Somerset local authorities are also working together to produce a countywide housing needs assessment which should provide a fuller picture of the need for social and affordable housing in Somerset.

Mr. Flook: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of the new entrants onto the housing list in the last 12 months in *(a)* Taunton Deane and *(b)* West Somerset were registered outside (i) Somerset and (ii) counties in South West England. [184640]

Keith Hill: This information is not held centrally; and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Tony Clarke: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the percentage change in housing waiting lists held by Northampton borough council was in each of the last five years. [184844]

Keith Hill: Information on the percentage change in the housing waiting lists held by Northampton borough council is tabled as follows:

Percentage increase from previous year in the housing register at 1 April

	Northampton (%)
1999	30
2000	10
2001	13
2002	−14
2003	16

Source:
ODPM's Housing Investment Programme returns

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the percentage change in housing waiting lists held by Portsmouth City Council was in each of the last five years. [184352]

Keith Hill: Information on the percentage change in the housing waiting lists held by Portsmouth City Council is tabled as follows.

Percentage increase from previous year in the housing register at 1 April

	Portsmouth (%)
1999	12
2000	−8
2001	10
2002	−1
2003	15

Source:
ODPM's Housing Investment Programme returns

Local Government

Mr. Flook: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will announce the results of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment for English district local authorities. [184645]

Mr. Raynsford: The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for district councils is being carried out on a county-by-county basis over an 18-month period and began in 2003. Results for over half of all the 238 district councils in England have been published by the Audit Commission and are available on their website at: www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/ These include councils in the counties of:

Buckinghamshire
Cheshire
Cumbria
Derbyshire
Devon
Dorset
Durham
East Lancashire
East Sussex
Essex
Hampshire
Hertfordshire
Lincolnshire
Norfolk
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Nottinghamshire
Oxfordshire
Staffordshire
Surrey
West Lancashire
West Sussex
Wiltshire

Results have also been announced for the five Pathfinder councils (Ashford, Cambridge City, Canterbury, Ipswich and Wychavon). Results for district councils in Somerset are due to be published by the Audit Commission on 16 September. By December 2004, results for all 238 district councils will have been published.

Mr. Chris Smith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much revenue support grant was made available in the London Borough of Islington in each year since 1997; and what the projected amounts for future years are. [184727]

Mr. Raynsford: The following table shows formula grant, which is the sum of revenue support grant (RSG) and redistributed business rates (NNDR), over the period 1997–98 to 2004–05. 2004–05 is the latest year for which formula grant is available. Formula grant is currently approved by Parliament on an annual basis; the provisional 2005–06 amounts will be announced in mid-November. There are no projections available.

It is not appropriate to compare the amounts of RSG alone year-on-year since the level of RSG is partially determined by the amount of NNDR an authority receives for that year. Also it is not appropriate to compare formula grant year-on-year without first making adjustments for changes in funding and function. The following table therefore also provides the adjusted formula grant amounts where appropriate to enable a like-for-like comparison. For convenience the change in formula grant, expressed both in £ million and as a percentage have also been provided.

	Revenue support grant (£ million)	*Redistributed business rates (£ million)*	*Formula grant (£ million)*	*Change on previous year on a like-for-like basis (£ million)*	*Percentage change on previous year on a like-for-like basis (percentage)*
1997–98	142.351349	38.100485	180.451834	—	—
Adjusted 1997–98	—	—	184.333293	—	—
1998–99	141.389688	40.061813	181.451501	-2.881792	-1.6
1999–2000	143.335665	43.610078	186.945743	5.494242	3.0
Adjusted 1999–2000	—	—	186.727705	—	—
2000–01	146.390405	49.674393	196.064798	9.337093	5.0
Adjusted 2000–01	—	—	193.478402	—	—
2001–02	151.852882	47.816829	199.669711	6.191309	3.2
Adjusted 2001–02	—	—	196.089862	—	—
2002–03	151.140641	52.792816	203.933457	7.843594	4.0
Adjusted 2002–03	—	—	207.718810	—	—
2003–04	165.376743	51.557601	216.934344	9.215534	4.4
Adjusted 2003–04	—	—	219.371955	—	—
2004–05	180.530617	50.565707	231.096324	11.724369	5.3

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he expects to give his response to the recommendations of the Boundary Committee on local government reorganisation in the two tier areas of the northern regions. [181792]

Mr. Raynsford: On 8 July the Government announced their decision as to the local government reorganisation options that will be put to voters in a referendum. After careful consideration, the Government are putting forward the reorganisation recommendations presented by the Boundary Committee on 25 May. The only exception is a minor modification to Option B for Cumbria and Lancashire so that the whole of Ormskirk is placed in the proposed local authority of Sefton and West Lancashire.

Overhanging Debt

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the value of payments made to pay off overhanging debt was in 2003–04. [184125]

Keith Hill: Payments to meet local authorities' overhanging debt are made where the receipt to the authority from a housing stock transfer to a registered social landlord is less than a local authority's associated housing debt. £90.9 million was paid in 2003–04. The payment reflects the liability the Office would otherwise have to pay continuing subsidy on a local authority's housing attributable debt. It is not possible to use this resource for capital purposes.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Edward Davey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the value of discounts provided under the right to buy scheme was in 2003–04. [184112]

Keith Hill: The information requested is not currently available, but it will be available in the near future. I will write to the hon. Member.

Social Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to facilitate an increase in the number of housing units available for rent by *(a)* the local authority and *(b)* housing associations in Portsmouth. [184311]

Keith Hill: As part of the recent spending review the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has secured extra resources to deliver the Sustainable Communities agenda including funding for 50 per cent. increase in the number of new social rented homes between now and 2007–08.

It will be for the Regional Housing Boards, as part of their work of developing housing strategies for their region, to advise Ministers how these extra resources should be spent.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the demand for social housing in (i) Portsmouth and (ii) the South East of England; and if he will make a statement. [184312]

Keith Hill: The South East Regional Housing Board have commissioned research on:

an assessment of South East housing markets at a sub-regional level;

developing an Evidence Base for the Regional Housing Strategy;

analysis of Housing Strategy Statements and Business Plans in the South East.

This research will inform the production of the next Regional Housing Strategy.

Mr. Best: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the number of social housing units built in Leeds, North West since 1 May 1997. [183326]

Keith Hill: Estimates of houses built by parliamentary constituency are not available centrally.

Based on data reported by Leeds council and the National House-Building Council. 1,517 registered social landlord and council dwellings have been built within Leeds since 1 April 1997.

South-west Urban Areas

Mr. Flook: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of the South West of England was classed as urban area *(a)* 30 years ago, *(b)* 10 years ago, *(c)* five years ago and *(d)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [184641]

Keith Hill: The following information is available for land area designated for urban settlements with an associated population of 1,000 or more in the South West of England:

	Percentage
1981	4.0
1991	4.3
2001	4.9

These figures relate to built-up areas, irrespective of administrative boundaries.

Urban Areas

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of the South East of England was classed as urban area *(a)* 30 years ago, *(b)* 10 years ago, *(c)* five years ago and *(a)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [184221]

Keith Hill: The following information is available for land area designated for urban settlements with an associated population of 1,000 or more in the South East of England:

	Percentage
1981	9.4
1991	10.0
2001	10.7

These figures relate to built-up areas, irrespective of administrative boundaries.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education Spending

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much, at today's prices was spent on under-five education in each of the last 25 years; and what the planned spending is in each of the next five years. [172920]

Mr. Miliband: The Department does not produce precise forecasts of future expenditure and we are therefore unable to provide the planned spend figures requested.

The total spend in real terms at 2003–04 prices on under-five education by central and local government in England is available over the last 10 years and is contained within the following table:

	£ million
Estimated outturn	
2003–04	3,532
Provisional outturn	
2002–03	3,136
Outturn	
2001–02	3,090
2000–01	2,568
1999–2000	2,292
1998–99	2,063
1997–98[1]	2,028
1996–97[1]	1,918
1995–96[1]	1,879
1994–95[1]	1,857

[1] Central Government figures for 1997–98 to 1994–95 are cash-based.

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures for 1998–99 onwards are resource-based.
2. The 2003–04 figure reflects the transfer, apportioned to under-five education, of £640 million in respect of teachers' pensions, previously funded through Annually Managed Expenditure, to take account of a change in the method of financing employers'.
3. Figures are in real terms at 2003–04 prices, using GDP Deflators as at 30 June 2004.

FE Colleges

Ms Atherton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 14 to 16-year-olds in the Devon and Cornwall Learning Skills Council region he expects to attend a further education college in *(a)* 2004–05 and *(b)* 2006–07; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such provision in each area. [183757]

Mr. Charles Clarke: These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Five-year Strategy

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the statement of 8 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 1021, on Education and Skills (Five-Year Strategy), with whom he is discussing such a code; when he expects the code to be announced; if he will publish *(a)* representations he receives on the code and *(b)* the Government's responses; and when the code will be implemented. [184800]

Mr. Miliband: Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 provides for the Secretary of State to issue a Code of Practice on school admissions, and to make revisions to that Code as necessary. Any such Code is subject to parliamentary scrutiny. The Code of Practice on School Admissions was issued in April 1999; the Code of Practice on Admission Appeals was issued in September 1999. Both were amended in light of the Education Act 2002 and reissued in February 2003. In each case the Codes were subject to wide consultation with LEAs, schools, and other interested bodies, including faith organisations.

Learning and Skills Council (London East)

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of 14 to 16-year-olds in the London East Learning and Skills Council region who will study in a further education college in *(a)* 2004–05, *(b)* 2005–06 and *(c)* 2006–07; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such provision in each area. [184295]

Alan Johnson: These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Maintenance Grant

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his estimate is of the cost of the maintenance grant payable to poorer students in the current financial year. [184126]

Alan Johnson: The Higher Education Grant is being introduced for new students starting in the 2004/05 academic year. The cost in the 2004–05 financial year has been estimated at between £63-£75 million, depending on the actual number of students entering HE and their precise income distribution.

Natural Environment

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans he has to create more opportunities for primary school children to explore the natural environment; [184823]

(2) what plans he has to widen opportunities beyond the classroom for secondary school children to improve their understanding of the natural environment. [184824]

Mr. Stephen Twigg: Out of classroom learning is already a part of both the primary and secondary cycle of a child's education. In England, the Geography programmes of study at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 include a requirement for all pupils to carry out fieldwork investigations outside the classroom. Opportunities for outdoor learning also exist across the curriculum, in particular in Science, and we are encouraging all schools to take them up.

In order to help build confidence and competence in teachers, we have funded the Field Studies Council in association with the Geographical Association, the Association of Science Education and the Open University to develop a professional development unit for geography and science teachers. From autumn, complementary courses will be offered through the new national network of Science Learning Centres across England, specifically for science teachers. Lastly, our Growing Schools programme, which has engaged over 12,000 English schools so far, supports teachers with educating pupils about food cultivation, farming, and understanding the natural environment, as well how to use the outdoors for teaching subjects across the curriculum for pupils of all ages.

Open University

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money has been transferred to the Department from Northern Ireland block expenditure to finance Open University courses for students resident in Northern Ireland. [183237]

Alan Johnson: No such transfer of funds has been made in the current financial year.

School Finance

David Burnside: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the projected budget for schools in England in 2005–06 will go to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education. [184217]

Mr. Miliband: The Department for Education and Skills do not fund schools directly. Funding is provided to local education authorities through general revenue support grant. They decide how much to spend on education and, within that, how much to spend on education for primary aged pupils and how much for education for secondary aged education. These decisions are subject to delivering a minimum funding guarantee to each school of 4 per cent. for secondary schools and 5 per cent. for primary schools in 2005–06.

Teachers' Duties

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of the time teachers spend outside the classroom conducting activities essential to their work. [184052]

Mr. Miliband: This latest available information comes from the "2003 Teachers' Workload Diary Survey" which was conducted by the Office of Manpower Economics for the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) during the second week of March 2003.

This estimated that primary classroom teachers in the maintained school sector spent on average 65 per cent. of their time on activities other than teaching and secondary classroom teachers spent 64 per cent.

The following table provides a more detailed breakdown of how full-time primary and secondary full-time classroom teachers in English and Welsh maintained schools spent their time.

	Primary		*Secondary*	
	Hours	*Percentage*	*Hours*	*Percentage*
Teaching	17.6	35	18.0	36
Continuous Professional Development	2.0	4	1.2	2
Preparation, Planning, Assessment	13.0	26	14.9	30
Non-Teaching Contact	6.0	12	7.5	15
Admin Activities	6.9	14	4.4	9
Management Activities	3.7	7	2.7	5
Other	1.5	3	1.2	2
Total time	50.6	100	49.8	100

Source:
2003 OME Workload Diary Survey.

Since the 2003 OME survey was carried out, the September 2003 contractual changes have been implemented to teachers contracts. These changes saw the transfer of some administrative, clerical and managerial work previously undertaken by teachers to trained support staff in schools, thus allowing teachers to focus more on their core professional responsibilities and other activities needed to discharge their professional duties effectively.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Afghanistan

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the current year's poppy harvest in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [182963]

Mr. Rammell: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts an annual survey into the level of opium poppy cultivation and production in Afghanistan. The most recent survey, published in October 2003, showed that the level of opium cultivation in 2003 was 80,000 hectares and production was 3,600 tonnes. The UNODC is in the process of assessing the 2004 harvest in conjunction with the Afghan Government. Its report will be published in the autumn. We expect to see a rise in levels of cultivation. This is unwelcome but experience of counter-narcotic policies in Pakistan and Thailand, which both had much lower initial levels of production and were more stable countries, shows that cultivation tends to increase before declining. In my response to my hon. Friend the Member for Greenock and Inverclyde (David Cairns) on 9 June 2004, *Official Report*, columns124–27WH, I set out the action in hand to tackle drugs in Afghanistan and made clear that the UK, as lead nation, remains committed to supporting the Afghan Government in its strategy to eliminate opium production from its country.

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the UK is giving Afghanistan to develop internal stability. [183303]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK is at the forefront of efforts to expand the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) across Afghanistan through additional Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). We lead two PRTs and a Forward Support Base in northern Afghanistan. PRTs aim to help improve security in the regions and extend the authority of

central Government. The UK also provides over 300 troops to the ISAF mission in Kabul, which continues to help maintain stability in the capital.

The UK remains committed to helping the Afghan Government provide for its own security. We have £18 million available for Security Sector Reform this financial year, in addition to over £23 million provided since 2002. We provide assistance in areas such as the establishment of a multi-ethnic National Army within a civilian-led Ministry of Defence; reform of the police force; reform of the judiciary; and the demobilisation and disarmament of militias. The UK is also providing a £6.7 million program of support over three years to the Presidential Office of National Security.

In addition, the UK co-ordinates international efforts to develop and deliver international counter narcotics-assistance in Afghanistan. We have committed over £70 million over three years to support implementation of Afghanistan's National Drug Control strategy and we now have 10 staff in Kabul dedicated to counter-narcotics issues.

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the security situation in Afghanistan. [183335]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Security remains fragile throughout Afghanistan. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) continues to help the Afghan authorities maintain security in Kabul and its environs. ISAF is now expanding to the north, which is subject to long-standing tensions between regional factions but is generally stable. The UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Mazar-e Sharif and Meymana have transferred to ISAF authority and continue to help defuse tensions in the region. The New Zealand-led PRT in Bamian and the coalition PRT in Oruzgan are helping to maintain stability in central areas. There tend to be fewer security incidents in the west but units of the Afghan National Army (ANA) have deployed to Herat and Ghowr in recent months in response to violent incidents.

Security in the south and east is more worrying, with attacks resulting in the murder of international and Afghan aid workers and officials. Seven PRTs have been established in southern and eastern provinces to help improve the security environment. Coalition forces and units of the ANA continue to pursue terrorists in these areas.

Attempts by remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda to disrupt and undermine the democratic process are likely to increase as the elections approach. The UN, ISAF and the Coalition are working closely with the Afghan government on providing a stable and secure environment for the elections.

Amicus Briefs

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list overseas legal proceedings in which amicus briefs have been filed on behalf of the United Kingdom in the last 10 years. [184872]

Mr. Straw: During the last 12 months, the Government have submitted amicus briefs, either alone or with other Governments, in four cases in the United States courts; these were:

Sosa *v.* Alvarez-Machain (concerning the Alien Tort Statute);

F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. and Others *v.* Empagran S. A. (concerning the extraterritorial extent of anti-trust legislation);

Krishna Maharaj (concerning a failure to notify a consul of the arrest of a national); and

Christopher Simmons (concerning the imposition of the death penalty upon a person who was a juvenile).

To research the cases for the previous years would incur disproportionate costs.

Vera Baird: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he applies when deciding whether to file an amicus brief in overseas legal proceedings. [184873]

Mr. Straw: A decision on whether to file an amicus brief is taken in the light of all the circumstances, and particularly the United Kingdom's overall national interest.

British Indian Ocean Territories

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has held with the Government of Mauritius concerning its claim for sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territories; and if he will make a statement. [184367]

Mr. Rammell *[holding answer 15 July 2004]:* There have been no recent meetings between the two Governments on this issue. However, both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I offered discussion of this issue with Mauritian Prime Minister Paul Berenger during his recent visit to the UK.

The British Government do not recognise the claim by Mauritius to sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory. However, we have recognised Mauritius as the only state which has a right to assert a claim of sovereignty when the United Kingdom relinquishes it own sovereignty, and successive British Governments have given undertakings to the Government of Mauritius that the Territory will be ceded when no longer required for defence purposes subject to the requirements of international law.

Burma

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to engage the Government of Burma on developing democracy in that country. [183305]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have been at the forefront of efforts over many years to promote political reform in Burma. We remain willing to support a genuine process of national reconciliation, leading to the restoration of democracy and full respect for human rights and are ready to respond positively to tangible progress on the ground. This position has repeatedly been made clear to the regime, most recently when I met the Burmese Ambassador on 1 June.

Also I regularly discuss Burma with my Asian colleagues to encourage them to press the regime to move ahead with the political process. In particular I last spoke to the Thai Foreign Minister about Burma on 29 June.

Gibraltar

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the consequences for Gibraltar's status of the proposed European Constitution. [182820]

Mr. MacShane: The new Constitutional Treaty preserves Gibraltar's existing EU status.

Iraq

Denzil Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will deposit in the Library a copy of the instruments of the transfer of sovereignty from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the interim Government of Iraq. [182912]

Mr. Rammell: On 28 June Ambassador Paul Bremer, the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, handed over a letter to Judge Midhat Mahmoud and Prime Minister Allawi. This letter sealed the transfer of authority from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the Interim Iraqi Government.

I will place a copy of the letter in the Library of both Houses.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of income from oil resources in Iraq not accounted for over the period since the commencement of the occupation due to the lack, or inadequacy, of metering; who has been responsible for such metering; who is responsible for it now; who has gained from the improper accounting; what proposals are in hand to rectify the problem, over what timescale; and if he will make a statement. [183003]

Mr. Rammell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Blaenau Gwent (Llew Smith) on 7 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 765W. There is no reason to believe that income remains unaccounted for from the export of Iraq's oil during the occupation. During the Coalition's tenure all revenue from the sale of Iraq's oil was paid into the Development Fund for Iraq (DPI), which was established pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483 of 22 May 2003. As of 24 June 2004, the last date of oil sales before the handover of authority on 28 June, total proceeds from Iraq's oil exports to the DPI were US$ 11.1 billion.

The Coalition Provisional Authority oil team had been pressing the Iraqi Ministry of Oil for meters to be installed as a matter of urgency, but at the handover of authority the issue remained outstanding. The Iraqi Ministry of Oil now has full responsibility for ensuring meters are installed on Iraq's oil wellheads.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK, *(b)* US and *(c)* other nationals are attached to the Iraq Survey Group; and when it is expected to complete its work. [183520]

Mr. MacShane: As of the end of June, the numbers of personnel attached to the Iraq Survey Group were *(a)* 54 UK personnel; *(b)* 1,722 US personnel; and *(c)* 11 personnel of other nationalities.

There is no set deadline for completion of the Iraq Survey Group's task.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Administration on child prisoners held in Abu Ghraib prison. [183958]

Mr. Rammell: We have regular discussions with the US during which a wide variety of issues concerning Iraq are discussed. It is not our practice to make public the detail of these discussions under exemption 1*(b)* of Part 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government information.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what access UNICEF has to child prisoners in prisons in Iraq under the control of Coalition forces. [183959]

Mr. Rammell: UNICEF does not have access to those detained by Coalition forces in Iraq including those under the age of 18. This is the responsibility of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what prison facilities in Iraq under the control of Coalition forces are solely for child prisoners. [183960]

Mr. Rammell: There are no facilities in Iraq under the control of Coalition forces that are solely for prisoners under the age of 18. However, prisoners under the age of 18 are separated from adult prisoners, unless they are housed with family members.

Israel

Mr. Best: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the Israeli Supreme Court's decision relating to the positioning of the wall. [183337]

Mr. Rammell: We are aware of the recent decision by the Israeli High Court to rule in favour of Palestinian petitioners who brought a case against confiscation orders issued by the Israeli Defence Force for a 30 kilometre stretch of land to be used for the construction of the barrier around Jerusalem. While we have always acknowledged Israel's legitimate security concerns, we have consistently made clear to the Israeli government our opposition to the building of the barrier on Occupied Territory, on legal and humanitarian grounds.

Languages

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which United Kingdom languages he intends to propose as Union languages under the terms of Article 2 of the European Constitution treaty. [184755]

Mr. MacShane: There is no provision to nominate Union languages under Article 2 of the European Constitutional Treaty. Article IV-10 paragraph 2 entitles member states to translate the Treaty into

languages that are officially recognised in all or part of their territory, and place a copy of this translation in the archives of the Council. The Government will consider into which languages it will translate the Treaty nearer the time of the publication of an official version of the Treaty.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1997. [182949]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since 2000, no new non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have been established or abolished. Full details dating from 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

We have relinquished responsibility for, but not abolished, the following two NDPBs:

The Commonwealth Institute, which became an independent limited company in December 1999;

Britain Russia Centre, which ceased to be an NDPB and stopped receiving public money in April 2003. The centre still operates under the name Britain-Russia Centre/British East West Centre.

Russia

Mr. Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last visited Russia to discuss UK-Russian trade relations. [183339]

Mr. Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Moscow on 7 July. During his visit he discussed a range of bilateral and international issues with the Russian Government, but UK-Russian trade relationships were not on the agenda. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Ms Hewitt) discussed the bilateral trade relationship when she visited Moscow from 24–25 June.

Vietnam

Mr. Lyons: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action his Department is taking to assist the political and economic development of Vietnam. [183304]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK's political and economic relations with Vietnam are strengthening.

I visited Vietnam in March 2004. In May 2004, the President of Vietnam visited the UK. The President and his Ministerial team met Her Majesty the Queen, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, myself and several other Ministers. We discussed trade, development, human rights, education and other issues.

UK investments in Vietnam have now reached approximately £1.2 billion, making the UK one of the largest EU investors in Vietnam. Bilateral trade is worth over £600 million per year and rising. We are supporting Vietnam's efforts to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The Department for International Development's (DFID) support to Vietnam is one of the fastest growing UK aid programmes in the world. DFID programme resources are projected to increase from £23 million in 2003–04 to £40 million in 2004–05 and £60 million in 2005–06. This support assists Vietnam's social and economic development including the transition to a market-based economy.

We also engage regularly with the Vietnamese Government on a range of other issues. On human rights, we participate in an EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, most recently in Hanoi on 22 June. We are also working with Vietnam and its neighbours to tackle terrorism, illegal immigration and organised crime in the region.

PRIME MINISTER

Al-Qaeda

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister what recent assessment has been made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda-related terrorist cells. [184034]

The Prime Minister: We continuously assess the threat from Al-Qaeda and Al-Qaeda-related terrorist cells, including their numbers and locations.

British European Commissioner

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister if he will announce the name of the next British European Commissioner before the summer recess. [184762]

The Prime Minister: An announcement will be made shortly.

Israel/Palestine

Clare Short: To ask the Prime Minister what his policy is towards Prime Minister Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and incorporate parts of the West Bank into Israel; and if he will make a statement. [184758]

The Prime Minister: I welcome the approval by the Israeli Cabinet on the principle of withdrawal from all settlements in Gaza and some in the West Bank. I hope that preparations for withdrawal will be carried out without delay and that implementation swiftly follows.

As the Quartet indicated in their statement of 4 May, such a withdrawal would be in line with Phase One of the Roadmap and would be a real opportunity for progress. We and the rest of the international community must work to make it so.

As the Quartet also indicated in their statement, we support the proposed withdrawals on the basis that they do not prejudice negotiations on the final status issues between the parties, as laid down in the Roadmap, including the issue of borders.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Coal Mine Surface Workers (Compensation)

Mr. Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether compensation policies regarding coal mine surface workers suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are being reviewed. [182798]

Nigel Griffiths: Mr. Justice Turner asked the miners' solicitors for evidence to support claims for compensation for surface workers. I made sure that the solicitors had our full co-operation and access to all the British Coal dust records.

Following the latest court hearing earlier this week, I understand that the solicitors have identified lead cases, which they intend to present to Mr. Justice Turner in advance of the respiratory disease court hearing on 4 to 5 October. As always, the DTI will meet the full liability to any miner determined by the courts.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the latest percentage figures are for the number of women in *(a)* science, engineering and technology industries and *(b)* other major sectors; and what the figures were in 1996. [180063]

Ms Hewitt: The Labour Force Survey provides estimates of employment levels. Analysis of the Labour Force Survey by occupation indicates that the percentage of women employees within science, engineering and technology was the same at 15 per cent. in 1996 and 2003. In comparison, women accounted for 49 per cent. of all employees in both 1996 and 2003.

1. SET occupations by sex, 1996

Occupation	*Male*	*Percentage*	*Female*	*Percentage*	*Total*
Natural scientists	90,000	73	34,000	27	124,000
Engineers and technologists	433,000	93	34,000	7	467,000
Architects, town planners, surveyors	79,000	86	13,000	14	92,000
Scientific technicians	188,000	74	66,000	26	254,000
Draughtspersons, surveyors etc.	87,000	94	6,000	6	92,000
Computer analysts, programmers	146,000	82	32,000	18	178,000
SET total	1,022,000	85	185,000	15	1,207,000
All employees	11,313,000	51	10,710,000	49	22,023,000

Source:
Labour Force Survey, Spring 1996, Office for National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk).

2. SET occupations by sex, 2003

Occupation	*Male*	*Percentage*	*Female*	*Percentage*	*Total*
Science professionals	57,000	53	51,000	47	108,000
Engineering professionals	350,000	95	19,000	5	369,000
Information and communication technology	305,000	86	50,000	14	355,000
Architects, town planners, surveyors	112,000	88	15,000	12	127,000
Science and engineering technicians	194,000	82	44,000	18	238,000
Draughtspersons and building inspectors	56,000	90	6,000	10	62,000
SET total	1,073,000	85	185,000	15	1,258,000
All employees	12,362,000	51	11,800,000	49	24,162,000

Source:
Labour Force Survey, Spring 2003, Office for National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk).

Libya

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans she has to encourage British businesses to invest in Libya; and what the current level of UK investment in Libya is. [184051]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit in March 2004 and his commitment to strengthen political and economic ties, I visited Libya in April 2004 accompanied by a high level business delegation.

Over 50 UK-based companies have established branch offices in Libya in order to pursue their trade and investment interests. UK Trade and Investment is actively assisting these and other companies in their efforts to develop their business interests in that market and there is an on-going programme of activity in support of strengthening trade links with Libya. However there are no official figures on the financial level of the investment in Libya.

Nuclear Power/Security

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans she has to extend the responsibilities of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security to deal with nuclear materials transported from UK licensed nuclear sites to nuclear sites abroad. [184401]

Mr. Timms: None. The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) already has the power to regulate the security of nuclear material carried on board UK-flagged vessels anywhere in the world. Where nuclear material is exported from UK ports on foreign-flagged vessels, OCNS's regulatory powers cannot extend beyond UK territorial waters. Once in international waters, sole responsibility for the security of the nuclear material rests with the government of the carrier concerned.

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which organisations provided information used by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) to construct its design basis threat (DBT) for plants and

operations of civil nuclear companies; and whether the OCNS shares information on the United Kingdom DBT with its United States counterpart. [184403]

Mr. Timms: The Design Basis Threat is a planning tool that draws principally on assessments produced by the Security Service and the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC), of which OCNS is a member.

OCNS discusses the processes involved in the production and use of a Design Basis Threat with many member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency, including the United States, but does not exchange analyses or conclusions that are protectively marked.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance the Office of Civil Nuclear Security offers to new carriers in designing a transport security plan. [184593]

Mr. Timms: The Office for Civil Nuclear Security offers advice on the procedures and standards necessary for new carriers to obtain regulatory approval for a transport security plan.

TRANSPORT

British Merchant Navy Officers (Employment)

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of British Merchant Navy officers employed on British registered and flagged vessels. [184136]

Mr. Jamieson: We are currently considering whether or not to include additional measures to enhance UK seafarer employment opportunities within tonnage tax and have invited proposals from our social partners, including the maritime trades unions. The proposals will be given careful consideration. Tonnage tax is flag neutral so any revisions to the scheme would not apply solely to British registered vessels.

A30/A303

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will announce whether the dualling of the A30/A303 is to be added to the targeted programme of improvements of the Highways Agency. [182586]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 6 July 2004]:* The Secretary of State is currently considering two route options for improving the section of this road between Ilminster and Exeter.

Accountancy Advice

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts have been let by his Department in each financial year since 2001–02 to *(a)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(b)* Deloitte and Touche, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* Ernst and Young for advising his Department on private finance initiative and public-private partnership contracts; and what fees were paid in each case. [182258]

Mr. McNulty: For work on the London Underground PPP, the Department for Transport (or its predecessors) employed Ernst and Young to provide advice. The contract was let in 2000–01 and about £884,000 was paid in fees. London Regional Transport, who were letting the LU PPP contracts, employed its own advisers, whose advice was shared with the Department, which included PricewaterhouseCoopers from early in 1999. PricewaterhouseCoopers received £21.4 million in fees. LRT also took advice from their auditors KPMG, who received about £2.4 million.

Advertising

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money was spent on advertising and promotional literature for his Department's initiatives, broken down by year since 1997. [183803]

Mr. McNulty: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. The Department spent £2.5 million in 2002–03 and £1.5 million in 2003–04 on the production of free literature. These figures include advertising and promotional literature plus items such as consultation reports. Separating out the figures for consultation reports could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Airports

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will issue guidance to airport operators in respect of the appropriate access plans referred to on page 11 of the White Paper, "The Future of Air Transport". [183761]

Mr. McNulty: The Department published Guidance on Airport Transport Forums and Airport Surface Access Strategies in July 1999. We will look to airport operators to take this guidance into account in assessing surface access proposals as part of their master plan preparation. Guidance on the preparation of master plans was published by DfT on 12 July and copies were placed in the Libraries of the House.

Aviation (State Aid)

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the impact of state aid on *(a)* the European aviation industry and *(b)* competition. [183295]

Mr. McNulty: As the Secretary of State explained to the Informal Transport Council in Amsterdam on 9 July during discussion of developments in aviation, state aid to EU airlines has been damaging in the past because it inhibits desirable structural change in the industry, discourages innovation and enterprise, and puts airlines which do not receive Government support at an unfair commercial disadvantage. This is why the Government have consistently supported the European Commission in its efforts over recent years to eliminate state aid in the aviation sector, efforts which have been largely successful.

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has made to the European Commission on the issues of state aid for *(a)* Alitalia and *(b)* other European airlines. [183296]

Mr. McNulty: Officials are in contact with the European Commission about a proposed rescue package for Alitalia to be underwritten by the Italian

Government. We have made no recent representations to the Commission about aid for other European airlines. We have no reason to believe that the Commission will be other than firm in its application of state aid rules in the aviation sector.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost per mile is of constructing the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link from St. Pancras; and if he will make a statement. [183270]

Mr. McNulty: Based on a projected cost of £5.2 billion and a route mileage of 70 miles, the implied unit cost of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link is £74 million per mile. The link includes 16 route miles in tunnel and is engineered to a maximum line speed of 186 mph. Care needs to be taken in comparing the unit costs of different projects, given the widely different scope of works and the different characteristics and geography of lines.

Civil Aircraft (Safety)

Mr. Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps the UK authorities take to ensure the safety of civil aircraft flying to, from, or over the UK; [184128]

(2) which airlines are prohibited from flying to, from or over the UK. [184130]

Mr. McNulty: International civil aviation is governed by the Chicago Convention. Under the Convention, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is responsible for establishing minimum safety standards which contracting states are required to implement. States are required to recognise the certificates issued by other contracting states unless they have reason to believe that they have not been issued in accordance with ICAO standards, ICAO also audits contracting states' aviation authorities to help identify and address any deficiencies in the implementation of international standards.

Any airline from outside the EU, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland which wishes to pick up or put down passengers or cargo in the UK requires a permit from the Secretary of State for Transport. It is a condition of the permit that the airline should be operated in accordance with international safety standards established by ICAO.

If we have doubts about whether an aircraft or airline complies with international safety standards we will arrange for the aircraft to be inspected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Permits may be refused, and existing permits suspended or revoked by the Secretary of State. This may occur where there is a breach of a permit condition, which would include non-compliance with international safety standards; however action can also be taken for reasons other than safety. Permit decisions will be reviewed in the light of new information or changed circumstances.

Currently the Secretary of State has refused or would refuse to issue permits to aircraft operated by the airlines listed below because of evidence that they are not receiving adequate regulatory oversight from their national aviation authorities.

Any airline from Equatorial Guinea

Any airline from Gambia

Any airline from Liberia

Any airline from Tajikistan

Star Air Ltd. (Sierra Leone)

Central Air Express (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Air Universal (Sierra Leone)

Air Mauritanie (Mauritania)

It should be noted that these airlines may be permitted to offer services to the UK, and issued with a permit, if these services are contracted out and operated by another airline. For example, Gambia International Airlines has services to the UK which are operated on their behalf by a Spanish airline.

Departmental Annual Report

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many copies of his Department's and predecessor Department's annual report were printed in each year since 1997; how many were sold in each year; and what the *(a)* publication cost and *(b)* sales revenue were. [183881]

Mr. McNulty: ISO Ltd. published and printed the Annual Reports of this department and its predecessors until 2003–04. The number of copies they printed and sold and the revenue they made is commercial in confidence and the Department therefore does not know these details.

The costs to the Department for the past four financial years are set out as follows. Given Departmental changes, the costs of publication for the years 1997–2000 could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

The DETR Annual Report cost £52,000 in 2000–01;

the DTLR's Annual Report cost £37,761.14 in 2001–02; and

the Department for Transport's cost £23,156 in 2002–03.

In 2003–04, the Department changed its procedures and directly contracted a printer to print 1,100 copies of the Annual Report. 700 copies were provided to the publisher, TSO Ltd. The cost of publication was £34,112.76.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* renovation and *(b)* maintenance projects on buildings (i) owned and (ii) rented by his Department were undertaken in each of the last five years; and what the associated costs were of each. [163945]

Mr. McNulty: Following Machinery of Government Changes the Department was formed on 29 May 2002. The following table provides details of renovation and maintenance projects, excluding minor works and day-to-day maintenance.

£

Building	*2002–03*	*2003–04*
Renovation		
Great Minster House[1]	500,000	0
Southside[1]	0	2,600,000
MAIB[1]	137,000	0
AAIB[2]	68,000	103,000

£

Building	2002-03	2003-04
Maintenance		
Great Minster House[1]	0	577,000
Great Minster House and Southside[1]	0	280,000
Ashdown House[2]	58,000	0

[1] Rented
[2] Freehold

Departmental IT Projects

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* costs and *(b)* time scales are of IT projects which are being undertaken by his Department and agencies; and if he will list the (i) start date, (ii) planned completion date, (iii) expected completion date, (iv) planned cost and (v) current estimated cost of these projects. [180840]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The details below relate to the key IT projects that are monitored centrally and reported on to the e-Government Unit.

Project	Cost	Time scale	Start date	Completion date		Cost	
				Planned	Expected	Planned	Estimated
Traffic Control Centre: PPP Service; providing co-ordinated real time information on traffic conditions across most strategic road network	£160 million over 10 years	2.5 years implementation 7.5 years operation	August 2001	August 2011	August 2011	£160 million	£160 million
Transport Direct Portal	£45 million	3.8 years	March 2002	December 2005	December 2005	Portal £28 million Total £52 million	Portal £27 million Total £52 million
Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads (ESDAL)	£8.6 million development £1.2 million operation	3 years development 2 years operation	April 2004 development August 2006 operation	August 2006 development July 2008 operation	August 2006 development July 2008 operation	£8.6 million development £1.2 million operation	£8.6 million development £1.2 million operation
Tax Disc Renewal—EVL (Electronic Vehicle Licensing)	£38 million	2 years	November 2002	June 2004	November 2004	£38 million	£38 million
Disability: electronic booking, returning and confirmation of driving assessments/electronic linking between mobility centres	£1 million	2 years	August 2003	March 2005 (roll-out)	March 2005 (roll-out)	£1 million	£1 million
Driver Licensing—DRP (Drivers Re-engineering Project)	£35 million	2.5 years	June 2003	December 2005	December 2005	£37 million	£35 million

Departmental Publications (Storage)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many departmental publications are in storage; and where they are located. [183876]

Mr. McNulty: As of 9 July 2004, the Department was storing 226 different posters and 627 other publications at its storage and fulfilment contractor: Two-Ten Communications in Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

A further 169 titles are stored by TSO Ltd., in their premises at Nine Elms Lane in London, while 90 titles are printed on demand rather than being stored physically. The Department has established a contract whereby an increasing number of titles can be printed on demand economically to maintain a printed document service in parallel with its increasing use of the internet.

Departmental Staff

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total amount paid by his Department to employment agencies for the supply of temporary staff was in financial year 2003–04. [178915]

Mr. McNulty: The total amount paid to employment agencies by DfT(C) for the supply of temporary staff in financial year 2003–04 was £2,899,192.58.

Driving Standards Agency

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what ways the Driving Standards Agency contributes to the understanding of driving standards by road users after they have passed their driving tests. [183487]

Mr. Jamieson: Working with key stakeholders, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has implemented and continues to develop strategies to extend the understanding of driving standards by full licence holders.

The Pass Plus training scheme enables newly qualified drivers to gain driving experience in a range of road and traffic conditions that they may not have experienced—such as driving on a motorway. It also boosts awareness of hazards and provides advice on how to anticipate and respond safely to them.

DSA operates a voluntary registration scheme providing quality assurance of instructors who specialise in training for those who regularly drive cars and small vans as part of their work.

The agency's "Arrive Alive Classic" presentation is aimed at drivers aged 50 plus, and gives advice on driving standards and the effects of ageing—for example, hearing problems and failing eyesight.

DSA publishes advice for people returning to motorcycling after a break, and those who ride as part of their work. The agency, in partnership with members of the Government's Advisory Group on Motorcycling, is also formulating proposals for a developmental training scheme for qualified motorcyclists.

Under commercial contracts, DSA examiners assess and monitor the standards of some bus and taxi drivers on behalf of their employers and public bodies.

Finally, for all road users, the agency, together with the Stationery Office, produces the Highway Code which has annual sales of over 800,000.

Flight Operators (Insolvency)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to protect air travellers whose flight operator becomes insolvent; and what recent discussions he has had with the industry on these measures, with particular reference to operators of low cost charter flights. [185051]

Mr. McNulty: Air travellers who book a flight as part of a package are protected by the ATOL scheme. In the event of failure of the travel organiser, the airline or any other part of the package, customers are entitled to a refund of their money or if abroad at the time of failure, they will be repatriated. I have had no recent discussions with the airline industry on this issue.

London Underground (Particulates)

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what levels of particulates in the air were recorded at each level of underground tunnels on the London underground system in each year from 1993 to 2003. [184220]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for London Underground (LU), which transferred from central Government to Transport for London on 15 July 2003.

London Underground does not hold the information in the format requested. Nevertheless, I understand from LUL that dust levels throughout the tube network are many times lower than the statutory occupational exposure limits for various forms of dust, as set by the Health and Safety Executive. Studies by LUL and by independent academic institutions have found no evidence of any harmful health effects on their staff.

I also understand that dust levels on the underground have been steadily reducing over the years as a result of improved cleaning regimes and technical changes.

Motorways/M6

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the estimated cost is of his proposal for widening the M6 motorway between junctions 11 and 20; [181668]

(2) for what reasons the proposal to widen the M6 motorway between Junctions 11 and 20 has not been entered in the Targeted Programme of Improvements. [181669]

Mr. Jamieson: The Highways Agency has been carrying out further detailed work on a scheme to widen the M6 between junctions 11a and 19, following the announcement in December 2002, when the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed his support, in principle, for this scheme. The further work has taken longer than expected, due partly to the complexity of the associated traffic modelling. It is currently expected that this scheme will cost around £2 billion. However, the Secretary of State for Transport announced last week that he is considering building a new expressway to run parallel with the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester as an alternative to widening the existing M6. The Department for Transport issued a consultation paper "M6: giving motorists a choice", which invites views.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on what date copies of the document, M6: giving motorists a choice—A consultation proposal, published on 6 July, were delivered to the Department by its printers; [183500]

(2) on what date the document, M6: giving motorists a choice—A consultation proposal, was printed by his Department's printers; [183501]

(3) on what date the first draft proofs of the document M6: giving motorists a choice—A consultation proposal were delivered to the Department's printers. [183530]

Mr. Jamieson: The consultation document—'M6: giving motorists a choice: A Consultation Proposal' was printed on Monday 5 July and delivered to the Department on the same day. Further copies of the document were delivered to the Department on Tuesday 6 July 2004. Draft text of the document was first sent from the Department to the designers on 29 June and artwork for the document was delivered to the printers on 2 July 2004.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements the Department is making for the document 'M6: giving motorists a choice: A Consultation Proposal' to be delivered to residents in the *(a)* Seabridge, *(b)* Westlands, *(c)* Keele, *(d)* Halmer End, *(e)* Audley, *(f)* Wrinehill, *(g)* Betley, *(h)* Balterley, *(i)* Butterton and *(j)* Madeley areas of the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme. [183502]

Mr. Jamieson: The document seeks views at this stage on the broad concept of a tolled expressway alongside the existing M6. It has been sent to all Members of Parliament whose constituents are situated within the West Midlands and North West of England. Copies have also been placed in the House Library, in the normal way.

Copies of the document have also been sent to a wide range of people and organisations along the M6 between Junctions 11 and 20, including Staffordshire county council, Stoke on Trent city council and Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council. Members of the public can obtain a copy of the document from my Department and it is also available on the Department for Transport website.

If, following the consultation it is decided to carry out further feasibility work and development on the expressway proposal, consultation will be carried out at a later stage with interested parties and residents on possible alignments for the route.

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on motorway fast lanes for car sharers. [183790]

Mr. Jamieson: The announcement about a feasibility study into High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes on motorways was made last week, and within four days, nine representations had been made. The majority of these were in favour of the proposals and several offered useful advice or suggestions, all of which will be taken into consideration as part of the work that the Highways Agency will be taking forward over the next few months.

Parking Control (Private Companies)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local councils have tendered out their parking control to private companies. [184247]

Mr. McNulty: Information on local authority parking control contracts is not collected centrally.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 697W, on heavy goods vehicles, when he intends to announce who will carry out an updated cost-benefit analysis for making ECE 104 compliant retro-reflective tape mandatory in the UK; when he expects this study to be published; and if he will make a statement. [184300]

Mr. Jamieson: My Department expects to announce who will carry out the cost benefit analysis, during September once the tendering process has been completed. We expect that the results of the study will be published by the end of February 2005.

The Department will then consult interested parties about the German proposal to mandate UNECE 104 tape in UNECE Regulation 48 for all new vehicles over 12 tonnes.

Rail Network (London)

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the cost of maintaining London's rail network is expected to be in each of the next five years; [184284]

(2) how much was spent on the maintenance of London's overground rail network in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 1999, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2003 and *(e)* 2004. [184287]

Mr. McNulty: Network Rail advises that this information is not available in the form requested.

Road Accidents

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of road casualties in crashes involving (i) a road traffic offence, (ii) unlicensed driver, (iii) untaxed vehicle and (iv) no valid insurance in the last year for which figures are available. [183547]

Mr. Jamieson: The information is not available in the form required.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets he has set to reduce road fatalities and injuries among children. [184307]

Mr. Jamieson: Our road safety strategy, "Tomorrow's Roads—Safer for Everyone", published in March 2000, set a challenging target of reducing child road deaths or serious injuries by 50 per cent., compared with the baseline average for 1994–98, by 2010.

"Road Casualties Great Britain 2003: Main Results", published on 24 June 2004, shows that we are making excellent progress. Child deaths or serious injuries were down 40 per cent. from their baseline; over three-quarters of the way towards our 50 per cent. target.

Mr. Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data his Department has collected on the comparative performance of emergency services and other Government agencies in reducing transport delays after road traffic incidents. [182419]

Mr. Jamieson: Data are not available centrally on the performance of emergency services in reducing transport delays after road traffic incidents.

Highways Agency Traffic Officers will be responsible for clearing incidents and getting traffic moving. The success of the initiative will be evaluated against a number of criteria, including: incident detection time; incident response time; clearance times following incidents; incident related congestion; and road safety benefits.

Mr. Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data the Department has collated on the performance of *(a)* emergency services and *(b)* other Government agencies in reducing transport delays after road traffic incidents. [182787]

Mr. Jamieson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given earlier today (UIN 182419).

Road and Rail Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent in 2003 to improve safety on *(a)* the road network operated by the Highways Agency and *(b)* the passenger rail network. [182878]

Mr. Jamieson *[holding answer 8 July 2004]:* There is a safety element to all of the Highways Agency's projects. The safety component of its £1.7 billion budget for 2003–04 was not costed separately.

Safety spend on the passenger rail network is built into budget heads such as infrastructure or staff training. It is therefore not possible to separately identify the spend on rail safety.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements his Department makes for the education of children on matters of road safety; and what funding is made available to support such education. [183481]

Mr. Jamieson: Local authorities have statutory responsibility for road safety, including education, training and publicity programmes for children. They develop programmes locally, drawing also on materials produced centrally by my Department. These programmes are aimed at children themselves, and at their parents and carers. We conduct national publicity campaigns, such as the hedgehog commercials. Schools can also provide road safety education and we produce materials for them, such as lesson plans.

The Department's publicity programme has a budget of some £2.53 million in 2004/05. Local authorities and schools can rely on revenue support from central Government and revenue raised locally to fund their programmes. The Department also funds development. "Kerbcraft"—a method of child pedestrian training successfully piloted in Scotland—is being tested throughout England. £9 million is being made available to selected local authorities.

Our national target for child road safety is to achieve a 50 per cent. reduction in children killed and seriously injured by 2010, compared to the 1994–98 average. We are making good progress, with a reduction of 40 per cent. achieved by the end of 2003.

Speed Cameras

Tom Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reviews take place and how often, on the siting of speed cameras; who conducts them; and if he will make a statement. [184117]

Mr. Jamieson: In his statement to the House on the Safety Camera Programme on 15 June, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport noted that the Government expect Safety Camera Partnerships of police and local highway authorities to keep camera sites under review and up to date with local circumstances. He indicated that the Department will give guidance to partnerships on the operational cases they submit each year, asking them in particular to look at camera sites where a good safety record has been achieved, to assess whether cameras need to be retained, and also to look at sites where there appears to be a continuing problem of collisions notwithstanding the use of cameras, to assess whether further or different action should be taken—taking into account the views of both local communities and those of road users.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are in operation in the London borough of Havering. [184245]

Mr. Jamieson: Havering is covered by the London Safety Camera Partnership. The list of approved safety camera sites operated by each Partnership, including London, was published on 15 June, and a copy placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the money raised in fines from speed cameras in Havering has been distributed since their introduction. [184248]

Mr. Jamieson: Havering is covered by the London Safety Camera Partnership, which was accepted into the safety camera cost recovery scheme in April 2002. Fixed penalty fines totalling £5,121,060 resulted from the operation of safety cameras in the London partnership area in 2002–03. £4,549,380 was reimbursed to the partnership to cover the cost of its safety camera activity. In line with the general practice on fine revenues, the remaining £571,680 was passed to the Treasury. The figures for 2003–04 will be published in due course.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what activities police forces will be allowed to spend the revenue resulting from speed cameras. [184365]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 July 2004]:* Fines imposed on offenders normally accrue to the Consolidated Fund. The special arrangements for the Safety Camera Programme provide that the Safety Camera Partnerships of local police and highway authorities can be reimbursed for the costs involved in the installation and operation of safety cameras and the enforcement of the resulting fixed penalty fines. Any remaining fines go to the Consolidated Fund.

Train Timetables

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to prevent train operating companies setting arrival times that allow an excessive journey time of the last leg of a journey, with consequent effects on the public performance measure. [184546]

Mr. McNulty: Train Operating Companies (TOCs) are bound by public service obligations in their franchises that prescribe the maximum journey times they may allow for each service. TOCs are also accountable under franchise agreements for consulting with the SRA, rail passenger committees and local authorities on any material changes to their timetables, even where these are made within the allowed journey times.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of inter-city trains terminating at London terminals arrived more than 10 minutes early in 2003. [184547]

Mr. McNulty: The Strategic Rail Authority publishes Public Performance Measure data by train operating company in its quarterly National Rail Trends. Trains arriving early are recorded as 'on time'. The latest publication covers the year ending 31 March 2004 and copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Wales-England Transport Links

Mr. Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve transport links between Wales and England; and when he next plans to meet his Welsh Assembly counterpart to discuss this. [184036]

Dr. Howells: My Department enjoys a good working relationship with the Welsh Assembly Government and my ministerial colleagues and I are always happy to meet our counterparts from the Assembly to discuss how transport links between Wales and England might be strengthened.

Rail links between England and North Wales will benefit from the West Coast Main Line upgrade, which will improve both frequency and journey times. In addition, under its new franchise, Arrive Trains Wales is considering an improved timetable—the Standard Pattern Timetable, where trains depart at regular intervals throughout the day—for introduction in December 2005.

Improvements to rail links between England and South Wales are being considered in the Strategic Rail Authority's Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy and Regional Planning Assessment, due for completion in autumn 2004 and spring 2005 respectively.

The Highways Agency has two schemes in its Targeted Programme of Improvements which will improve road links: improvements to the A550/A5117 between Deeside Park and the M56 interchange; and the A483 Pant and Llanymynech bypass.

The Agency has regular meetings with the Welsh Assembly to discuss how transport links between Wales and England can be strengthened.

West Coast Main Line

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost per mile is of upgrading the west coast main line; and if he will make a statement. [183269]

Mr. McNulty: The West Coast Main Line renewal and upgrade is projected to cost £7.6 billion. The route mileage is some 700 miles, implying a unit cost of £10.9 million per mile. The actual cost will be sensitive to the number of tracks and the scope of work within each route mile. Care needs to be taken in comparing the unit costs of different projects, given the widely different scope of works and the different characteristics and geography of lines.